

THE TIMES Tomorrow Next week will see the start of the first-ever public inquiry in this country into the merits and possible dangers of a drug...

14 'loyalist' terrorists are jailed Fourteen men, including leading members of the outlawed 'loyalist' Ulster Volunteer Force, received two life sentences and a total of 200 years in jail after being convicted at Belfast Crown Court of terrorist offences on evidence supplied by a 'supergrass'...

Record £573m bid for Tilling BTR, the industrial conglomerate, made a record British industrial bid when it offered £573m for Thomas Tilling, whose businesses include Heilmann publishing, Cornhill Insurance and Pretty Polly tights...

Livingstone curb The action of left-wing groups in nominating Mr Kenneth Livingstone as prospective parliamentary candidate for Brent, East, was outside the Labour Party's constitution, a report states.

Shares boom The FT index rose to a record 683.9, up 8.9, and the pound moved smartly ahead, closing up 2.20 cents at \$1.5270, on hopes of an early cut in base rates...

Queen for India The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in New Delhi in November, when the Queen will also visit Kenya and Bangladesh.

It's the WARTIME SHT we need to get this country on its FEET again... BOMB STATION CLOSED

Thames bomb A German bomb from the Second World War, found by a Thames dredger, brought central London's rush hour to a standstill...

Czechs can stay A Czechoslovak family of four who faced religious persecution at home are to be allowed to remain in Britain on compassionate grounds...

Willis plea England's cricket captain, Bob Willis, will today put the case to the Cricketers' Association for changing the county championship from three-day play to four days...

Letters: On Police Bill, from Dr R. Fox, and others; war graves, from Mr A. W. G. Wakefield, and Mrs C. Kirk; religious tolerance, from Mrs E. F. Wartenberg, and Mr T. Pritt...

Table with 2 columns: Page number and Section name (e.g., Home News 2-4, 6; Diary 12; Overseas 5, 8, 9; Arts 14, 15; Bridge 14; Business 16-22; Chess 14; Court 28; Crossword 28)

Large army bases tighten Israeli grip on Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Khirbet Rouha, central Lebanon Despite the protracted negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, the Israeli Army has built, and is still building, a series of large and sophisticated military bases across southern and central Lebanon... At Damour Israeli construction gangs have torn up the track of the old, disused Beirut-Palestine railway, and laid down on the track-bed a half-mile-long runway for a military airstrip...



Reagan tries to put the pieces together

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington President Reagan kept in contact yesterday with moderate Arab leaders in an attempt to salvage his Middle East peace plan after the refusal of King Hussein of Jordan to take part in Palestinian autonomy negotiations... Despite the President's publicly expressed optimism that his September 1 initiative was still alive, United States officials were much less sanguine in private...

Arab held after PLO man's death

From Susan MacDonald, Lisbon Portuguese police are holding a man in connection with the assassination of Issam Sartawi, the leading Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) moderate, at Albufeira in the Algarve on Sunday morning...

Table with 2 columns: Article title and Page number (e.g., Arafat's ominous future 8; Jordan-PLO crisis 8; Sharon visits Haddad 8; Israel's quagmire 12; Leading article 13)

Growing belief in a June election

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor Conservative MPs returned to Westminster yesterday after their 10-day Easter recess with an enhanced belief that the Prime Minister may be willing to hold a general election in June...

Wholly unwelcome, say staff and company

Americans bid £60m for Sotheby's

By Jeremy Warner Sotheby Parke Bernet finally came under the hammer yesterday. After months of speculation, the world's leading but loss-making fine art auctioneering group has received a takeover bid from its main American shareholder... A £60m offer, worth 52p in cash per Sotheby's share, was launched by GFI/Knoll, an American manufacturer of furniture and felt under-carpeting owned by Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid...



Caught on the hop: The Princess of Wales catches a shy young admirer off balance during her walkabout in Brisbane yesterday. Report page 6

Falkland pilgrims remember their dead beneath the sea

From Alan Hamilton, Fort Stanley The Falklands bereaved continued their pilgrimage yesterday with a simple, dignified and moving act of remembrance for those 174 members of the task force who have no grave but the sea... As the Royal Marines Band played Elgar's Nimrod the relatives gathered by the rail to shower the placid sea with a cascade of flowers...

£224,000 payout by company in red

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent A golden handshake of £224,000 was paid last year by the Government to an American executive, one of the co-founders of the state-owned microchip manufacturing company Immos, which yesterday declared a loss of £20.4m... The company hopes to be in profit next year, provided the world begins to pull out of recession and the sales of the Immos microchips are in line with forecasts...

Sergeant killed burnt Argentine

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter An Argentine prisoner of war on the Falklands Islands who was burning to death after an explosion while he was moving ammunition was shot by a British soldier to put him out of his agony... Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, disclosed details of the incident last night in a Commons reply about inquiries into the death and injury of Argentine POWs while in British custody...

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Advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) featuring a lion and the text 'Fly the Lion's Share of convenience and comfort to South Africa!'

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page

Theft from disc jockey of power boat cash denied by businessman

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Reporter

Basil Wainwright, a businessman, yesterday denied charges of dishonestly obtaining more than £40,000 from Mr Noel Edmunds, the disc jockey.

He pleaded not guilty at Worcester Crown Court to a total of 22 charges, including nine of theft. He denied two charges of obtaining £25,000 from Mr Edmunds by deception and others of obtaining £16,840 by theft.

Mr Wainwright, aged 48, of Greenleigh Road, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, appeared before Judge John Lee with Sheryl Cuffe, aged 29, his former secretary, of Parkfield Drive, Castle Bromwich, West Midlands.

Mr Wainwright denies a total of nine charges of theft, five of forgery, five of false accounting, two of obtaining money by deception and one of obtaining money through a pecuniary advantage.

Miss Cuffe denies on charge of theft, four of forgery and five of false accounting. All the alleged offences took place between October, 1980, and last August.

The theft and deception charges against Mr Wainwright and his connexion with Mr

Edmunds centred on a firm called Creaseglen Ltd, which is based at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester. Mr Michael Pratt, QC, for the prosecution, told the court.

The firm was set up to develop a hydro-wing powerboat called Excalibur, with which Mr Edmunds hoped to beat the world water speed record.

Mr Edmunds first met Mr Wainwright when they filmed the motoring programme, *Pop Gear*, at the BBC studios in Birmingham. Mr Pratt told the jury.

He said that Mr Wainwright was promoting a new system of ignition through his company, Wainwright International Incorporated which is based in America.

During the meeting at the television studios Mr Edmunds told Mr Wainwright and Mr Frederick Stidworthy, an inventor, of Warwick, of his idea for a record-breaking speedboat.

Mr Stidworthy produce plans based on the idea and Mr Wainwright got in touch with Mr Edmunds in November, 1980. Mr Edmunds agreed, Mr Pratt said, on a pound-for-pound basis to invest £70,000 in

the project. The first craft would belong to Mr Edmunds and would be called Excalibur.

The plans were finalized at a meeting in Stratford-on-Avon in January, 1981, Mr Pratt said. Later that month Mr Edmunds paid £10,000 to Creaseglen.

Mr Edmunds was presented with a miniature model of Excalibur, and by May had paid in the Creaseglen his agreed £70,000.

Mr Pratt said that because of Mr Edmunds' involvement the BBC planned to make a film of the project, which was to be called "Birth of a Boat". He told the jury that a more apt title might have been "The Boat that never was".

He said that eventually Mr Edmunds became concerned because he could not see accounts kept by Mr Wainwright concerning Creaseglen. So in July, 1981, "with a sense of drama," the BBC sent a camera crew to interview Mr Edmunds and Mr Wainwright at the Redditch factory.

By that time the Creaseglen bank account was overdrawn by more than £21,000 and Mr Edmunds did not know what had happened to his money. The trial continues today.

Artists canvass the RA critics for a place in the exhibition . . .



. . . but for some, rejection

The grimly named "hanging committee" of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) yesterday began its annual task of selecting paintings and other works for its summer exhibition. About 13,000 works have been submitted for the event, which runs from May 28 until August 28.

Paintings arriving by the barrow-load were passed like fire buckets along a human chain of art students so that they could be displayed in front of distinguished judges, including Rodrigo Moylan (above).

A show of hands determined whether the artist's pride and joy got an "X" for reject or a "D" for doubtful hastily chalked on the back.

The panel, chaired by Peter Greenham, RA schools chair-

Train gang used Trojan horse plan

A gang of train robbers used a Trojan horse method to carry out thefts last August. Post Office mail, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

A man hid in a large locked trunk equipped with oxygen apparatus to enable him to breathe. The trunk was then dispatched with another into the train's security compartment.

During the journey from Euston to Stoke-on-Trent he emerged through a false door in the side of the trunk and then loaded the second with mailbags full of valuable property. He was however, caught, by detectives who had been investigating large-scale thefts from trains, the court heard.

James Hanrahan, aged 42, a decorator, of Keotish Town, north London, the slightly built man who hid in the trunk, was jailed for four years. Eliza Paule, aged 24, of Green Lanes, north London, who bought the tickets and travelled on the train, was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years.

George Howard, aged 52, an actor, of Jupiter Way, Islington, north London, who recruited Paule and helped to organize the scheme, was sentenced to three years. Michael Montague, aged 34, a motor mechanic, of Lower Clapton, north London, was jailed for his part as the "strong man" who carried the trunk containing Hanrahan to the train. They all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal Post Office mail from the train in August last year.

Judge Bax said: "The courts can only take an extremely serious view of people who set out to violate the security system."

Mr Michael Sayers, for the prosecution, said it was a highly organized attack on the supposed vandal-proof contents of royal mail. They had adopted the system of the Trojan horse to gain entry to the security luggage part of the train. However, he said, it was "nipped in the bud" by luck and good police work.

Hanrahan worked for the Post Office for 18 years and knew the security system. When he left through "ill health", he kept the keys to vital security locks and his uniform. He thought up the scheme.

Paule was arrested on the train and confessed to the scheme, and Howard and another man were captured as they waited with a hired van at Stoke-on-Trent to unload the trunks.

Czech family can stay in Britain

The Home Secretary yesterday agreed to allow a Czechoslovak family of four who face deportation to remain in Britain on compassionate grounds after representations from Conservative MPs.

Mr Bobuslav Starosta, his wife and their two sons came to Britain from Prague in December, 1981, with three-week holiday visas and sought political asylum on the ground that they faced religious persecution as Christians. They belong to a Moravian church.

Their application to stay was refused, first by the immigration appeals adjudicator and then by the appeals tribunal, although both of those said there were compassionate grounds for allowing the family to remain.

Yesterday, after Mr David Waddington, the Home Office Minister responsible for immigration, had announced the Home Secretary's decision, Mr Starosta, who is aged 37 and is a quantity surveyor, said: "It is fantastic news. We are so pleased." He intends to try to get a job.

The normal procedure in such cases is that after a year the Starostas can make an application to remain in Britain indefinitely. Unless the political situation in Czechoslovakia changes, they are likely to be allowed to do so.

A Home Office spokesman said that the case had been under consideration since the appeal was rejected in March. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had reached his decision because of the compassionate circumstances, and the family were remaining on this basis, out as political refugees.

Representations had been made by Mr Brian MacWhinney, Conservative MP for Peterborough, and Sir Ian Gilmour, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham. Mr MacWhinney said that he was delighted with the decision.

"I am sure it is the right one and it is a response not only to the facts of the case but also to the pressure brought to bear, particularly from the Christian community on behalf of this family, who have been subjected to religious persecution in their homeland", he said.

The Rev Andrew Warburton, Mr Starosta's brother-in-law, said: "We are thrilled to bits as a family, although still suffering from shock. We did not expect the decision so quickly."

"I believe their case has been helped by that of the Romanian, Mr Siacu Papusoiu, (recently expelled from Britain) which has highlighted the problems of refugees from Eastern Europe."

Aspirin warning to coil users

Women who use an intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD) should not take aspirin, a leading family planning doctor said yesterday.

Dr Jill Dossator, who practices in Suffolk, reports in a letter to *Pulse* that only three of 1,000 patients she fitted with the multiloop coil (a particular type of IUD) had become pregnant; two conceived after doses of aspirin and the third was taking a related drug, Ponstan, which works like aspirin by preventing the formation of prostaglandin.

Evidence that aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs may make the coil less effective has also come from a group of French family planning experts.

They reported independently two months ago that four women taking such drugs had each become pregnant twice while fitted with an IUD.

Dr Dossator said yesterday that she would advise women who use an IUD to take medicines such as Panadol or Paracetamol instead of aspirin. She has started distributing leaflets to her own IUD patients, warning them of the risks.

According to the most recent figures from the Family Planning Association, about 500,000 women in Britain are fitted with an IUD. Their normal failure rate is about three pregnancies a year per 100 women. An association spokesman said it was too soon to advise everyone with an IUD to avoid aspirin.

There is evidence that the coil stimulates the production of prostaglandins in some women.

Swede cleared of aiding Boss burglary

A Swedish journalist accused of acting as a South African agent in Britain, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of involvement in a break-in at the London offices of an anti-apartheid organization. The prosecution had alleged that Mr Bertil Wedin, aged 42, had been paid £1,000 a month by South Africa's security police formerly known as the Bureau of State Security (BOSS) to supply information about opponents of the regime.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Wedin had interviewed Mr Hamillio Keke, of the Pan African Congress of Azania (South Africa) at the their offices in High Road, Willesden, north-west London, ostensibly to write an article.

Later he produced a sketch pad of the offices to assist a burglar, who broke in and stole documents last summer, it was alleged. However the jury found Mr Wedin, of Toobridge, Kent, not guilty of burglary between July 31 and August 10 last and not guilty of dishonestly receiving stolen letters and other documents between July 30 and September 14 last.

After his acquittal Mr Wedin, a former Swedish Army officer, who has an English wife, said he had supplied information to a South African company in good faith, not realizing that it was a front for South African intelligence.

"If you are a political analyst you can never be sure where the information goes," he said.

Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution, had alleged that Mr Wedin and Peter Casleton were both working as South African agents and that Casleton arranged for Edward Aspinall, a convicted burglar, to break into the Pan African Congress offices. Mr Amiot said it was not alleged that Mr Wedin actually broke into the premises himself.

Casleton, aged 38, and Aspinall, aged 23, were jailed at the Central Criminal Court in December last year after pleading guilty to conspiracy to burglar and possession of a prohibited weapon, a teargas aerosol.

Aspinall also admitted three specific burglaries at Anti-Apartheid offices in London: those of the African National Congress, the South West African Peoples' Organization and PAC. He was said to have been recruited by Warrant Officer Joseph Klue, a South African Embassy official, who was expelled from Britain last year. Casleton was jailed for four years and Aspinall for 18 months.

House prices 'forced up by too much Green Belt'

London home-buyers faced steep price rises because too much land was classed as Green Belt, the House-Builders' Federation claimed in London yesterday. Mr Peter Woodrow, president of the federation and a buyer of land for the Wimpey group, said: "Whenever a piece of land comes out to the market we all want that same piece of land."

"We do not put in what the land is worth," he continued. "We have to put in what we think will beat the rest. We are all forcing land prices up." Mr Roger Humber, director of the federation, said: "Housing land prices in London and the South-east have doubled in the past year. This is very bad news for home buyers."

The federation called for release for building of 240 acres of Green Belt on 21 sites owned

Heroism of Rob James's crewman praised

From Craig Seton, Plymouth

Rob James, the international yachtsman, fought a losing battle against cold after falling from his trimaran and died in spite of the heroism of Mr Jeffrey Houlgrave, who jumped into the sea to try to save his skipper, an inquest in Plymouth was told yesterday.

Mr David Bishop, the Plymouth and south-west Devon Coroner, praised all four of Mr James's crew for their considerable effort but said heroism was probably the right word to use for Mr Houlgrave aged 29.

"Quite regardless of the risk to his own safety - and there was very considerable risk - he plunged into the cold water and assisted in the recovery until he was overcome by cold and fatigue," Mr Bishop said.

The inquest heard that Mr Houlgrave managed to get Mr James back to the side of the trimaran until his grip was broken by a large wave. Numerous attempts had been made to save Mr James after he fell from the trimaran. Cars GB two miles off Salcombe harbour just before dawn on March 20, and he could be heard shouting, "I am going down, I am going down."

after the tragedy, was out at the inquest and nor were any other members of Mr James's family.

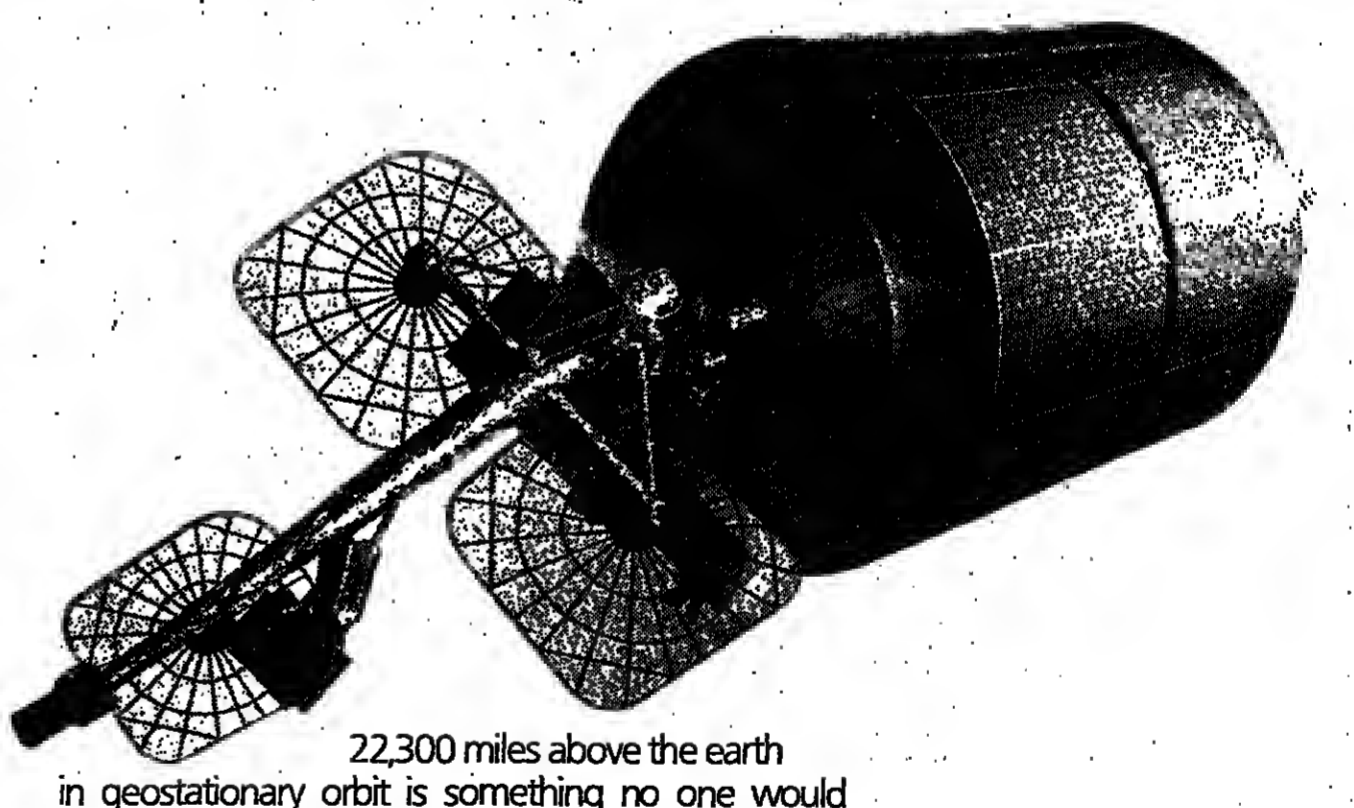
Recording a verdict of accidental death on Mr James of Upper Enham, Andover, Mr Bishop said it was easy to be wise after the event but at that period of the year the time to effect any sort of recovery or rescue was considerably limited.

The inquest was told that when Mr James fell overboard Mr Paul Yeardon, a chartered surveyor, of Bristol was helping to bring down the mainsail and Miss Michelle de Bruin, aged 20, was at the helm. Below, off watch, were Mr Houlgrave and Michael Cane, another crewman.

Mr Houlgrave told the inquest that he was wakened by a "shout of 'man overboard'" and after running out to the deck he threw a life ring to Mr James.

For 25 minutes his skipper could be seen in his white oilskins or heard shouting as the crew tried with difficulty to tack and bring the trimaran round to him; then it was decided that somebody had to go into the water to attempt a rescue.

Mr Houlgrave said he had jumped into the sea with a line tied around, "I managed to get hold of Rob and he was



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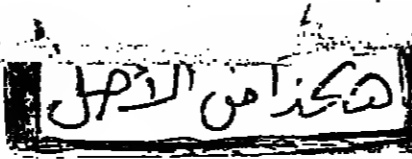
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Whitelaw seeks balance on data protection

COMMONS

Evidence of the information technology revolution was apparent wherever one looked, in banking, building societies, retail trading and mail order businesses, throughout commerce and industry and increasingly to government. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said when moving the Protection of Personal Information Bill...

provided adequate security measures to protect the data. Compliance was enforceable through the provision of a registrar, who could consult and advise and negotiate before taking action. A vital feature of the scheme was its capacity to use his discretionary powers to tailor his response to the circumstances of each case...

was a reason to believe that evidence would be found of a data protection offence or contravention of the protection principles. The part of the Bill dealing with exemptions was the portion by which, in many people's minds, the rest of the scheme would be judged. Apart from data held for domestic and other limited purposes, the only data wholly outside the scheme were those concerned with national security...

White:law: No vast quango. Their data to inquiries and correct errors, but there was no way in which the individual would be able to check that he had proper redress or recourse if the information was improperly used. Most often he would not know about it, and if he did, there would be no opportunity to put the matter right. The tribunals were then exclusively to protect computer control. If a company was prevented from registering it could appeal to the tribunal, but if users believed that a company was restrictive because of its behaviour or conduct, they could not appeal to the tribunal...

Minister defends Government record on arts spending

THE ARTS

Government spending on the arts, representing 0.3 per cent of total Government spending was very good, considering the present difficult economic situation, Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, said during a question time in the Commons. Mr Channon said that the Government's record on arts spending was very good, considering the present difficult economic situation...

Mr Harvey Proctor (Bairdson, C) asked what was the total cost of salaries and expenses of the Arts Council in each of the last three years. Mr Channon: The total operating expenses were £3.9m in 1980-81, £4.4m in 1981-82 and £4.7m in 1982-83. The cost of wages and salaries alone was £2.1m in 1980-81, £2.4m in 1981-82 and £2.7m in 1982-83.

Mr Proctor: Will he consider looking at the administration of the Arts Council, particularly in regard to the public concern about certain pecuniary and perverse grants of money to different bodies, particularly political fringe theatre groups? Will he consider a departmental review of inquiry into the workings of the Arts Council? Mr Channon: As to the question of administration, the operating costs of the Arts Council represented just over 5 per cent of the total expenditure in each of the three years in question...

question, it has long been the tradition of governments of both political persuasions that we believe in the arm's length principle and that governments do not interfere in the way the Arts Council allocates the money. Mr Clement Freud (isle of Ely, L): Since the minister is satisfied with the level of salary expenditure, might he consider investing in some marketing men for the Arts Council? Mr Channon: That is something the Arts Council themselves have a valuable point. Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selk, Oak, C): If they did a marketing survey, they would find that the reasons the arts need more and more subsidies is that they keep on putting on more plays or music or art exhibitions that the people they are meant for do not want. Mr Channon: That is a one-sided point of view...

Peers anxious over sale of association homes

HOUSE OF LORDS

In this Parliament the Government had provided almost 50 additional housing associations to be sold under the provisions of the Housing Act 1974, Mr Lord Gardiner, Minister for Local Government and Environment, said when moving the second reading of the Housing and Building Control Bill which has passed its second reading. The Government's view was that a limited extension of the right to buy would not have the adverse effect of reducing the housing stock in those areas which had been reserved for the homeless and other in housing need.

Profoundly anxious over housing means, said Lord Gardiner, as always, remember that there are many who will never be able to own a house. Their needs are in danger of being totally lost sight of. The Bill must leave the House of Lords when Clause 2 has been deleted. Clause 2, providing for the enforced sale of charitable housing associations, was strongly criticised. Lord Gardiner said that the clause would introduce great uncertainty and insecurity among housing associations as to whether future grants would have retrospective conditions attached to them. It would create inequality between tenants, often in the same property and diminish the housing available at lowest cost.

Reassurance on lead in vegetables

POLLUTION

Lack of pollution of vegetables was by no means proven, Lord Skelmersdale said in the House of Lords. Lord Wallace of Gosford, for the Opposition, said home-grown vegetables formed only a small proportion of the diet of the average Britishman. Research had shown that eating just one acre of there were high natural levels of lead in soil and had a average consumption of home-grown produce the total intake of lead from food was well within the limits set by the World Health Organisation. There were stringent regulations about the lead content of vegetables and other food, added for sale which acted as a major part of the diet.

No debate on CAB cash

A call for an emergency debate on the decision by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, to authorise a grant of only £5m to the National Citizens Advice Bureau compared with the grant of £6m the previous year, failed when the Speaker (Mr George Thomas), ruled that a different issue offering a wider coverage of information like a code of conduct for data users enforceable in law for that individual who had information about them could be raised in the House.

How parties choose their candidates: 2.

Mr Tony Cook, the losing SDP-Alliance candidate at Darlington, and Mr Richard Crawshaw, SDP MP for Liverpool, Tenth, who faces a Liberal opponent at the next election. Detailed regulations for selection, which lay down a 42-day "fastest timetable", say that each applicant must provide not more than 250 words of biographical background along with a statement in support of their candidacy not exceeding 750 words. Short-listing meetings of area party committees must agree unless the national committee rules otherwise, a two-thirds majority, a short list of not fewer than five and not more than nine with "at least two men, and two women and two applicants who are not members of any area party, either partly or wholly covering the constituency".

Royal assent

The Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) Act, Divorce Jurisdiction, Court Fees and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act, Merchant Shipping Act, International Transport Conventions Act, Financial Institutions (Grouped) Act and the Criminal Justice (Mental Health) Act received Royal Assent.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill (remains on stage); Lords (2.30): Water Bill (report).

Doctors drop action to block Data Protection Bill

Doctors have dropped their threat to block the progress of the Government's Data Protection Bill on the ground that it fails to cover non-computerized records. The British Medical Association, which has a strong lobby among MPs, had condemned the Bill's provisions as "a nonsense" and they would not afford protection for the vast majority of medical records stored on manual filing systems. The Bill, which had its second reading in the Commons yesterday, is designed to protect individuals against the misuse of personal data stored on computers. But yesterday the BMA said that during the Bill's passage through the Lords it had decided to concentrate on removing defects in the proposals as they stood, rather than try to widen them still further. A BMA spokesman said: "This Bill is at best neutral, and at worst positively harmful. We do not wish therefore to extend what is inadequate legislation to cover all medical records."

Instead the BMA will concentrate its opposition on the Bill's provision which allows medical information stored on computers to be secretly disclosed for purposes as crime prevention. "A patient's notes could be transferred to the police by a third person without either the patient's or the doctor's knowledge or consent. The information might then be held indefinitely." The Bill, which will enable the Government to ratify the European convention that protects citizens against abuses in the storage of personal data on computers, is the first step in this country towards a privacy law. First, it sets up a new, Crown-appointed post of Registrar, who will work with a small staff with the job of enforcing the new laws and their principles.

Pensioners get 5p TV licence

The Television Licence Records Office, in Bristol, has accepted that Sheffield City Council has found a loop-hole in fee regulations which may enable 8,000 pensioners in the city to qualify for a 5p television licence. A colour licence normally costs £5.25 and only pensioners living in residential homes and housing schemes with community facilities or those who receive visits from a paid warden can qualify for the cheap licence. Sheffield, whose council is Labour-controlled, is to employ a dozen women who will make four visits a year to the homes of pensioners, who can then claim that they are in a paid warden scheme. Door hits train Seven people were injured yesterday when an open door on a goods train shattered the windows of a London to Birmingham Inter-City train as they passed at high speed near Long Buckley, Northamptonshire.

Dangers to Alliance of democratic system

Anthony Bevins, our Political Correspondent, continues his examination of parliamentary candidate selection procedures. It is ironic that the Social Democrats, having instituted a selection process which includes a postal ballot of all party members within an area, should have encountered the difficulty which they undoubtedly faced with their candidate in the Darlington election. But there are some critics of the system who argue that throwing the system open to a fully democratic ballot creates a danger that members may vote for a candidate's autographical detail rather than his or her ability to punch home a hard political message or, more significantly, cope with the ritual blows of an election campaign. Mr Tony Cook, the SDP-Alliance candidate in Darlington, and Mr Nicholas Jenkins, the SDP-Alliance candidate who has withdrawn from the forthcoming by-election campaign in Cardiff, North-west should, however, take heart from the fact that there are candidates from both Labour and Conservative parties who have suffered political breakdown in the face of by-election press conferences. Indeed, there are some front-benchers, on both sides of the House, who fall the test of concerted media interrogation. The SDP constitution attempts to restrict applications for parliamentary candidate vacancies to a centrally controlled candidates' panel, maintained by the party's national committee. That committee, which has the power to remove the names of those who become "unsuit-

More teachers despite fewer pupils

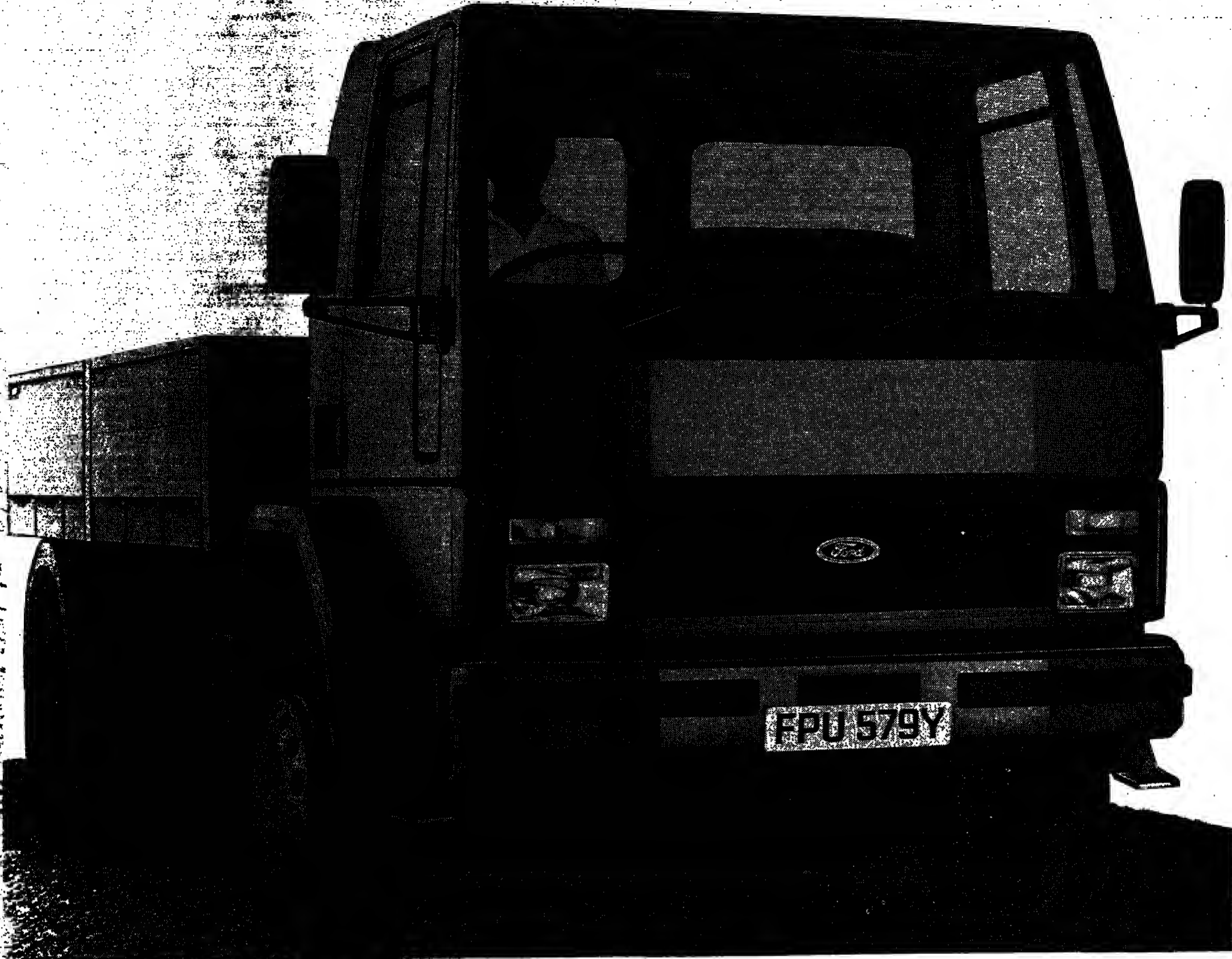
Despite an unprecedented drop in the number of pupils, the Inner London Education Authority has this year increased its staff to its highest total ever. Secondary schools numbers fell by more than 6 per cent between 1982 and 1983 and primary numbers by nearly 3 per cent, yet the authority's total staff increased by less than 1 per cent. But in a newspaper circulated to all inner London homes this week, the authority promises that more staff will be employed during the year. According to Mr Bryn Davies, leader of the Labour-controlled authority, the extra staff are needed "to protect the children's rights to a decent education". Staff were needed for the ILEA's expanded programme for children aged 16-19 and to give additional help to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. He said that if the ILEA had followed government guidelines on its spending the education service would have been "shattered". To pay for its £369m budget for 1983-84 the ILEA increased the precept it levied in 1982 by 8.4 per cent. Householders in the inner London borough pay, on average, £4.50 a week for the

financial year show that for every ten teachers in the ILEA, there are eight back-up staff, including clerks and caretakers. According to figures collected by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, the ILEA spends more on ancillary staff than any other authority. The ILEA's staff in 1983-84 totals 56,290, of whom 29,340 are teachers.

BR on time

Of 143,416 trains run by British Rail's Southern Region in March, 94.4 per cent arrived on time or not more than five minutes late, which is an improvement of 3.1 per cent compared with February. Davey autopsy The findings of an independent post-mortem examination on the death of a Davey, who died in custody at Coventry police headquarters, will not be revealed until the inquest next month. Mr Davey, aged 40, collapsed while awaiting questioning about a murder in London.

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Courtauld Institute art collections may go on show at Somerset House

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The important art collections of the Courtauld Institute could be on show to the public in the Fine Rooms at Somerset House, in the Strand, in London in two years as a result of an agreement between the Government and London University.

For two years, Professor Peter Lasko, director of the institute, has been trying to persuade the Government to make Somerset House, built in 1776-1778, available. Negotiations with the Department of the Environment are at an advanced stage.

Professor Randolph Quirk, Vice-Chancellor of London University, of which the Courtauld Institute is part, said yesterday that after many years of trying to unite the art collections and the teaching institute under one roof, the plan was "excitingly within reach".

It is estimated that the cost of adapting the north block of Somerset House, facing the Strand, will be at least £3m. The institute will be launching a public appeal "with the dual objective of creating an outstanding new public art gallery in London and ensuring that the teaching of art history and the enjoyment of works of art can take place in one building".

The Courtauld Institute, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, has Samuel Courtauld's famous collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, including the Thomas-Gambier-Parry, the Roger Fry, and the Princess Gate collection bequeathed by Count Antoine Seilern.

Recently a collection of nineteenth and twentieth-century paintings and sculpture was given by Lillian Browne.

At present only about 40 per cent of the works can be shown at the galleries in Woburn Square, and the move to Somerset House will enable 80 to 90 per cent of the works to go on show, according to Professor Lasko.

When Somerset House was acquired by the Government from the Crown it was designated for government offices, so legislation will be needed to enable the Government to grant a lease for its use as a teaching institute and art gallery.

Bank union becomes militant on technology

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Blackpool

In a sharp move to the left the 152,000-member Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday decided to take a far more militant stand over new technology.

Members will be urged to resist the introduction of any new machinery where no technology agreements exist between the union and management. That means that staff would take industrial action and refuse to operate the equipment.

The motion was passed overwhelmingly at the union's annual delegate conference in Blackpool against the advice of the executive, who felt that there would be some grass roots resistance to the action. An attempt to remit it to the national executive was heavily defeated.

Moving the resolution, Mr David Thomas, from Lancaster, said that existing job security agreements were insufficient to protect members. There were no guarantees over job content or the speed with which new processes were to be introduced. There was only one agreement in existence, which was at the Cooperative Bank.

Mr Thomas said: "We are not opposed to new technology in the long term, we merely wish to have some say about its introduction. The point of the motion was not to deplore the implementation of new technology."

But Mr Anthony Knowles, of the national executive, said action to block equipment would require a ballot, "and in any case of our members support the introduction of new machinery."

Mr Terence Molloy, deputy general secretary, thought that the debate was the most important of the conference. "New technology is the greatest challenge we face, not just for BIIFU but for the whole of the trade union movement."

He said that the policy of the union was to support new technology, but only if it was implemented via a new agreement.

"We are facing an unemployment figure of four million and new technology means that jobs are in danger on banking, building societies, insurance and finance."

He quoted a study which predicted that the English clearing banks face a 12 per cent reduction in manpower by 1990. "Let no member be under any illusion. Their jobs and their prospects are under threat," he said.

Crowd force Princess to abandon walkabout



From Granada Forth PA Court Correspondent, Brisbane

A Royal walkabout in Brisbane last night was cut drastically yesterday when a surprisingly large crowd nearly mobbed the Princess of Wales in their friendly enthusiasm.

The walkabout, through the heart of the city, was to have lasted more than an hour, but as hysterical masses swarmed in the Princess, the Prince of Wales and their advisers decided to make a dash for the safety of the City Hall.

Young children in the very front of the crowd, which was in places 20 deep, seemed in danger of being crushed and the Prince and Princess realized that this was to be no ordinary walkabout.

A senior Australian policeman described the walkabout in the 86 degree heat as "hellish".

The Princess arrived at the City Hall for an official welcome with sweat pouring down her face and obviously shattered by the emotion of the occasion.

She was rushed to a cool, private room to recover.

The crowd's enthusiasm did not diminish even when the royal couple were safely inside City Hall. A balcony appearance by the Princess and Prince brought hysterical screams. As the royal visitors left the balcony after the ten-minute appearance the Princess put his arm comfortingly round his wife's waist.

Teacher jailed for affair with girl of 13

A teacher of religious education was sent to prison yesterday after admitting having an affair with a girl aged 13. They had sexual intercourse in his car and at his home while his wife was at work, Stafford Crown Court was told.

The girl's mother became suspicious after discovering a torn-up letter from the teacher to her. When confronted by the police, Steven Green aged 29, admitted the relationship. He said he was in love with the girl, who was described in court as physically and sexually mature.

Green, of Aldridge, West Midlands, was jailed for a total of 18 months, nine of them suspended, after pleading guilty to three charges of having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl.

Mr Christopher Hotten, for the prosecution, said the offences represented a serious breach of trust. The relationship began soon after Christmas, 1981. Green played basketball with a group of boys and girls. Eventually the numbers taking part dwindled until only Green and the girl remained.

Gradually a degree of intimacy occurred either in Green's car or at his home when his wife was out at work. Intercourse first took place at his home during the summer holidays.

When seen by the police Green said: "I have lost everything, my profession, my wife and my home. I believe she knows what love is, I certainly do."

Mr Peter Stretton, for the defence, said: "This was a deeply emotional matter rather than casual sex. This was a case of genuine affection which arose between these two people of different ages. It is a fact of life that from time to time such relationships do occur and they are sometimes very profound."

Mr Stretton added: "What he has lost by these activities has been considerable and will be a lasting punishment upon him."

Judge Garrard told Green: "You said in your statement that society would not understand. You are right, they would not."

Signalman was drunk, court told

From Our Correspondent, Exeter

A signalman who drank too much on his birthday arrived drunk on duty and fell asleep in his signal box, causing chaos on the Paddington to Penzance line, Callumpton magistrates, in Devon, were told yesterday.

Eventually after five trains were delayed for 87 minutes, a driver reached the signal box and found Leo Morris sprawled unconscious in his chair, Mr Reginald Peck, for British Transport Police, told the court.

After failing to rouse him, the driver called the police and an ambulance. When the police arrived he tried to operate the signal levers but was so unsteady on his feet that the officers arrested him.

Morris, who admitted being drunk on duty, said that he had had too much to drink. "I had a fall off my pushbike."

Mr Cecil Stoneham, chairman of the bench adjourned the hearing until May 9, pending a social inquiry report. He said: "We have in mind a custodial sentence."

Whitehall brief

'Mr Clean' can veto improper appointments

By Peter Hemmsey

In career terms Mr Dennis Trevelyan has gone from one extreme to another. For five years his job was to keep people in 45,000 of them to be precise, the residents of HM Prisons in England and Wales. Three weeks ago he became First Civil Service Commissioner responsible to the Queen and the Privy Council for keeping unqualified, politically appointed persons out of Whitehall.

Although only a deputy secretary in the Management and Personnel Office, he can, technically, go over the heads of his boss, Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, and Sir Robert's boss, the Prime Minister, and protest to the sovereign if he believes patronage of the early nineteenth century variety is once more rearing its corrupt head.

His singular power derives from successive orders in council, the first of 1855 vintage, the most recent a 1982 formulation. It was a distant ancestor, Sir Charles Trevelyan, who, with Sir Stafford Northcote produced the famous report of 1853 which recommended that the Civil Service be cleaned up through a system of appointments based purely on merit as demonstrated in competitive examination.

The job of the 1983 model Trevelyan is to make sure that Whitehall stays clean. Nobody can take up a permanent post in the executive grades or higher



Mr Dennis Trevelyan: Holds the trump cards.

Matters could get tricky, however, if heads of Whitehall departments were appointed from partisan outsiders. Almost by definition that kind of permanent secretary could not be temporary, brought in under Section 1 (2) (c), although some permanent secretaries, such as Professor Terence Burns, Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, are temporary civil servants.

What could Mr Trevelyan do if the nineteenth-century settlement, the brainchild of his ancestor, seemed under threat? The pattern of escalation would probably proceed as follows.

First he would confide his fears to Sir Robert Armstrong. Depending on the level at which the "improper" appointment was to take place, he would talk to the minister and the permanent secretary in the affected department. If no notice was taken, he would cite his order in council and stress his independence. If propriety still did not prevail, he would blow the whistle by making his concern public.

The view in Whitehall is that matters would get no farther than the private chat stage. Virtue would triumph without the need for publicity. With characteristic Whitehall understatement one insider said: "The Queen would be slightly surprised" if Mr Trevelyan sought an audience waving his order in council. But, as trump cards go, the monarch is pretty unbeatable.

Palace on December 22, does contain a passage which should allow a future prime minister sufficient leeway to recruit sympathetic outsiders on a temporary basis without precipitating a constitutional crisis. Section 1 (2) (c) states that Mr Trevelyan's certificate will not be needed "in respect of appointments such that the period for which the situation is said to be held in abeyance by the person appointed terminates at the end of an administrative period."

Hawke rebuke on RAAF dam flights

From Tony Dubouin, Melbourne

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, gave an assurance last night that the armed forces would not be used again in the Tasmanian dam controversy, and is believed to have reprimanded Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, for allowing an RAAF aircraft to be used for dam surveillance.

Mr Robin Gray, the Tasmanian premier, had officially protested to the Federal Government over the use of an RAAF aircraft to photograph work on the Gordon-below-Franklin dam in the southwest wilderness area of the state.

Mr Gray said that the flight of an RAAF Mirage fighter over the area last week was an entirely wrong, provocative and overbearing use of the defence forces. The flight had been ordered by the Federal Attorney General's department and an RAAF spokesman confirmed that it was a photographic mission, a task often assigned to flight crews. Photographs were taken of the dam site.

"This is the first time ever such a thing has happened in Australia," Mr Gray said. He said it was "incredible" that Mr

Honours list on way out

The Federal Government has abolished the British-based honours system and will no longer nominate Australians for awards. The Australian honours system, the Order of Australia, instituted under the last Labour government, will continue.

However, the two states ruled by Liberal-National Party governments will continue to nominate people for British awards. The Labour state governments have already scrapped the imperial honours system.

The announcement yesterday was no surprise as the abolition of the honours system has been Labour Party policy for some time.

Hawke had apparently sent the RAAF on a "U-2 type" spy mission.

Yesterday, Senator Gareth Evans, the Attorney General, said that the reason that the RAAF had been used was to avoid any confrontation with Tasmanian police. He also

Resentment against Delhi grows

INSIDE ASSAM

In his second and final article on the recent violence in Assam, KULDIP NAYAR, a leading Indian journalist and correspondent of The Times in India since 1969, analyses the worsening relations between native Assamese and immigrant Bengalis.

"Three hundred thousand people remain homeless in Assam after the terrible eruption of election violence. Most are in camps dependent on meagre Government rations and private donations, which are rapidly drying up."

Corrupt politicians, with the help of contractors, are making money out of supplies and services to the camps.

Most of the refugees are reluctant to return to their home areas. They want assurance of police protection. The Muslims would prefer to be guarded by the Delhi-controlled paramilitary Central Reserve Police because the Assam police are suspect in their eyes.

When you talk to the Assamese you find that their anger against the central Government has increased. So, too, has their resentment towards the Bengalis - the migrants whose swelling numbers soaked up tensions over the years in Assam. "We are not against the Bengalis," the Assamese insist, but the relationship between the two communities has become merely formal. They seldom meet socially.

Most Bengalis, Hindus as well as Muslims, continue to believe that the student-led movement to oust what the Assamese call "foreigners" is aimed at them.

"The state is burning," Mr Hiteswar Saikia, the Chief Minister, says. "There is need for cooperation by all sides."

"There can be no peace so long as there is an unrepresentative government," according to Mr Bhirigu Kumar Phukan, secretary of the All-Assam Students Union, one of the groups leading the agitation.

Less than 2 per cent of Assamese voted in the February election, and it seems that suspension of the new state Assembly, if not its dissolution, will be the first demand if and when the agitators resume talks with the Government in Delhi.

The anti-migrants movement still commands the same respect that I saw at the beginning of the agitation in early 1981. When Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, arrived recently the leading agitators called for a blackout of the town.

Not even a candle flickered. The street lights went out as the Assamese power station workers responded to the call. The Prime Minister did not address any public meetings, and security was very tight.

The new state Government is completely alienated from the people. Its very existence is resented.

The students themselves have suspended their agitation for the time being, and that has helped to improve the situation. But what worries people in the Government and in the student movement itself is that some of the more moderate student leaders were detained in January and February, and extremists gained credibility.

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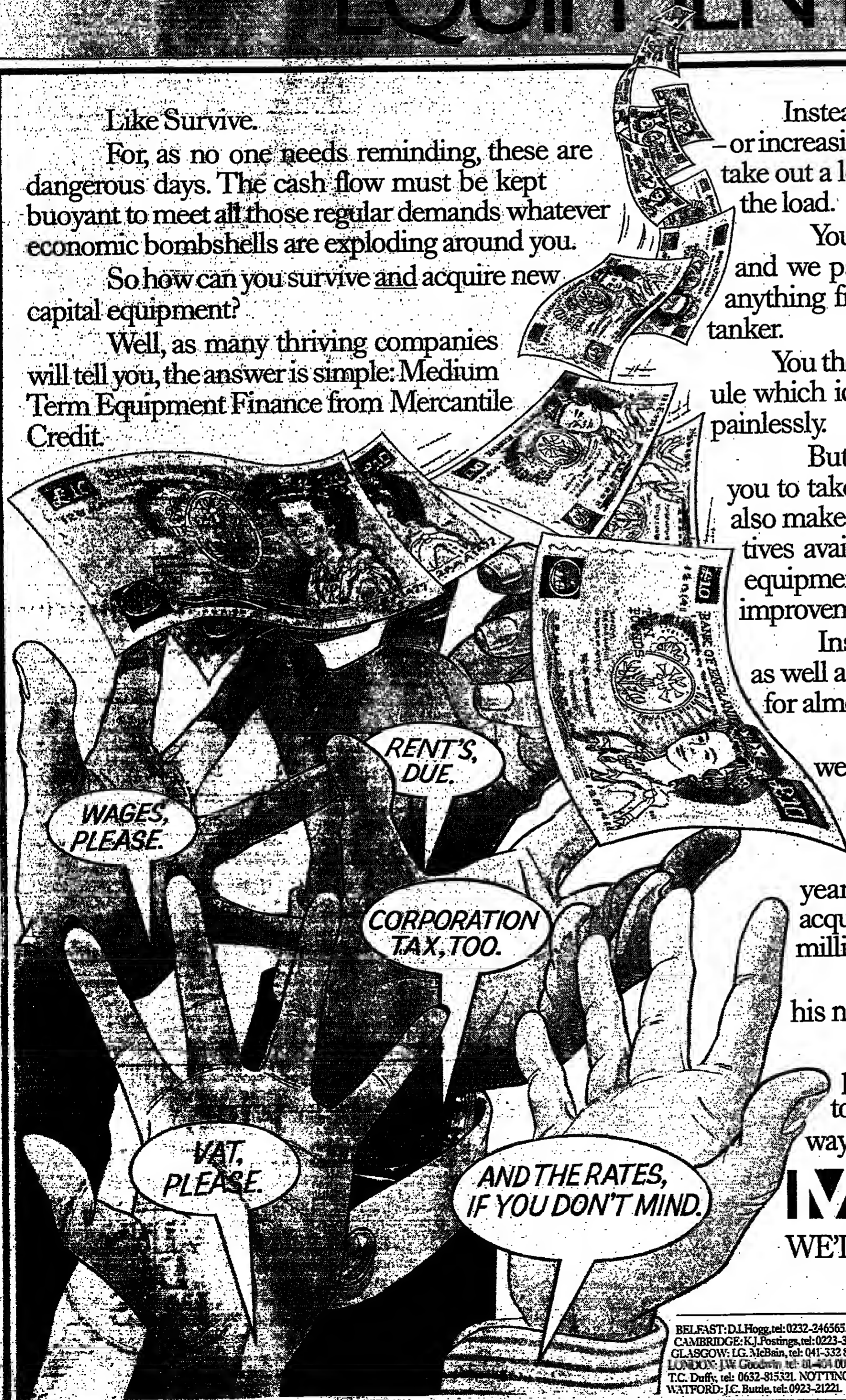
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Diplomatic crisis returns to the Middle East; Moscow steps up anti-Zionism drive; Gulf War flares again

Arafat facing ominous future with Syria in control of the PLO

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, was flying to Sweden last night on an official visit with his guerrilla movement divided as never before, his political independence ceded to Syria and his personal hopes for a Palestinian settlement in ruins.

The Syrians, who have campaigned for so long to destroy the Reagan plan, were excited by Syria's prediction of the failure of American and Zionist plans to rule over the Arab nation and strike at the central Arab cause, "bragged Damascus Radio, "has now started to take its course." But there was another more ominous note that was presumably aimed at Mr Arafat.

"All those who decide to follow Anwar Sadat's path and depart from the ranks of Arab masses will pay the price," the broadcast announced; and the PLO were left to wonder why these words sounded so like the recent statements of the Abu Nidal group. The significance of Sunday's murder in Portugal of Mr Issam Sartawi—one of Mr Arafat's most moderate officials who wanted to recognize Israel—was obviously supposed not to be missed.

Campaign puts Soviet Jews in fear

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet Jews are worried by a growing anti-Zionist campaign, which they fear heralds a new wave of officially-inspired anti-Semitism. The campaign is being spearheaded by General David Dragunsky, a veteran of the Second World War who is himself Jewish. He has made several television appearances to assail Zionism in a casual language. Attacks on Zionism have in the past been used by the Soviet authorities to encourage resentment of Jews and Jewish emigration to Israel.

Sharon pays private call on Haddad

From Christopher Walker, Metula

Reserve General Ariel Sharon, the controversial former Israeli Defence Minister yesterday paid his first visit to Israeli-occupied Lebanon since his demotion two months ago to Minister without Portfolio after the severe criticism of his conduct by the Kahan Commission into the Beirut massacre. Transported in a military helicopter, the former defence chief held private talks with Major Saad Haddad, the Israeli-backed Christian militia leader, whose future role is the main obstacle to agreement with Lebanon on troop withdrawal.

Yesterday's occasion was a remarkably low-key affair. No advance warning was given by the Government of Mr Sharon's helicopter tour, and senior Israeli officers based inside Lebanon were at a loss to explain why he should have been returning across the border at the present time. Beyond confirming that Mr Sharon had met Major Haddad at his house in Marjayoun, a spokesman based in Metula refused to provide any further details about the trip, which is believed to have included meetings with senior Israeli officers based in Lebanon where they are facing a dangerous upsurge of guerrilla attacks.



Setback for President: Mr Reagan explains to White House reporters the failure of his Middle East peace plan while Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, looks on.

Jordan tries to avert an open break

Bahrain (Reuters) - Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization said yesterday that they would maintain normal relations, in what appeared to be an attempt to prevent an outright split between King Hussein and the PLO. Comments by both sides seemed designed to avert a break after a Jordanian statement blaming the PLO for the breakdown of talks on a joint approach to peace negotiations in the Middle East.

In Amman, Mr Adnan Abu Odeh, the Minister of Information, said that Jordan would continue to conduct normal relations with the PLO and that the organization's offices would still function in Jordan. "Our bilateral relations are developing regardless of differences expressed by the Reagen initiative," Mr Faruk Kaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, said.

In Cairo there was no immediate comment on the Jordanian move from Egyptian officials, but Western diplomats said the move was seen as a personal affront to President Mubarak, who has been publicly saying that peace prospects might recede before the decision by the PLO and Jordan accepted the Reagen initiative.

Israel had known all along that nothing would come of the negotiations. Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's envoy, arrived in Israel on Sunday night, for talks with officials. It was pointed out that his return had been scheduled before the decision by the Jordanian Government.

Andropov gets some American fan mail

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Pravda gave extracts from letters which it said Mr Yuri Andropov had received from American citizens in praise of Soviet policies, and published a photograph of some of them to prove they were authentic. The paper first dipped into Mr Andropov's mailbox in February, when it quoted from letters sent from the United States criticizing President Reagan's arms build-up and calling for peace with Russia.

It showed a selection from the latest batch with American stamps and postmarks on the envelopes. It said letters had come to the Kremlin from all over America, from Florida to Ohio and from New York to California.

North Carolina, had favoured a reduced American arms budget provided Russia ceased its "support for the Afghan people against counter-revolutionary forces." Mr Tom Bell from Washington thought that pro-Soviet Cuba was "too close to the United States."

Such people were the victims of "dirty work by propagandists from the military-industrial complex," Pravda said. But fortunately most of the letters showed that most Americans had "common sense and a healthy practical approach".

IRA threat to British festival

From Christopher Thomas, New York

An extraordinary festival of British culture - dance, theatre, sport and music - opens officially in New York tomorrow and will continue throughout the summer. There will be a dazzling array of activity involving the Royal Ballet, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the London Symphony Orchestra and many others. There will be at least 200 different events but IRA supporters are threatening disruption.

Seven die in fighting at squatters' camp

Cape Town (Reuters) - Seven people died in factional fighting between rival groups in a black squatters' camp outside Cape Town on Sunday, police said yesterday. Another 26 were injured, some seriously. A spokesman amended an earlier count of eight dead by saying that the charred remains of what had been thought to be an infant turned out to be a dog. Pangas, axes and firearms were used in a pitched battle involving some 100 camp dwellers over still unexplained antagonisms. Fire destroyed five shacks, a school and several vehicles and police said four of the victims died of burns and three from axe or pangas wounds.

A clergyman working in the area said a big source of tension was the presence of some 6,000 people who had been living in the camp illegally since 1978. JOHANNESBURG: More than 500 black miners who refused to go underground on a uranium mine where 18 workers were killed on Friday have been sent back to their tribal homelands, the company said yesterday, AP reports. A spokesman for Gencor, the parent company of the Beisa mine, said the workers were considered to have resigned. He said about 650 workers refused to go on night shift Sunday at the mine near Welkom in central South Africa. Five miners were arrested when scuffling broke out. This morning 509 workers elected to discontinue their employment on the mine and were taken to the nearest railway station. He said 1,850 miners went underground as usual on the day shift.

Dioxin company defended by Swiss minister

Berne (Reuters) - Switzerland yesterday defended the chemical firm of Hoffmann-La Roche against allegations that it had concealed information from the West German Government on the whereabouts of two tonnes of highly-toxic dioxin waste. The waste, from the disaster at the Hoffmann-La Roche chemical plant at Seveso in Italy in 1976, was moved from Italy last year to an undisclosed destination. Mr Alphonse Egli, the Swiss Minister of the Interior, said yesterday that he was convinced that Hoffmann-La Roche had behaved honourably.

French ease tourist restrictions

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Government has made important concessions over its planned restrictions on foreign travel by French tourists after talks with travel agents who had claimed that thousands of their jobs were threatened. Pre-paid package holidays are no longer to be subject to any cost limit. Under the measures first announced by the Government as part of its austerity package on March 25 French tourists were to be restricted to spending a maximum of two thousand francs (£180) per adult per year on foreign holidays, plus 1,000 francs per child. The use of credit cards abroad was prohibited. The ferocity of the ensuing outcry took the Government

by surprise, and the measures were immediately relaxed so as to allow spending of 2,000 francs in foreign currency for each person over the age of nine, plus 1,000 francs for each younger child, plus a further 1,000 francs in French currency per person. The cost of air fares or other travel was not to be included in the limit. That meant that a family of four with two teenage children could spend up to 12,000 francs or nearly £1,100 on their foreign holiday, excluding the cost of getting there. Businessmen were to be limited to spending 1,000 francs a day in foreign currency. The latest concessions go much further. Tourists can now go for package holidays abroad,

with no limit on cost, provided those holidays were advertised before March 25, and still be entitled to take with them 250 francs per person over the age of nine in foreign currency if on full board, or 750 francs if on half-board, plus 1,000 francs per person in French currency. In return, the travel agents and tour operators agreed to reduce their foreign currency spending between April 1 and October 31 this year by 25 per cent compared with the same period last year. That will mean cutting back on the number of package holidays on offer. The Government still hopes to save 700,000m to 1,000,000m francs in foreign currency by its measures.

Oxfam aid gets through

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent. Reassurances about the distribution of aid in the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia has come from Oxfam, who have had a senior official in the region for the last four weeks. Dr Paul Shears, Health Coordinator, said yesterday on his return that food provided through the EEC aid programme was definitely reaching people in the most severely affected areas such as Wollo and Gondar. Not only was it helping to prevent malnutrition but by reaching people in their villages it was encouraging them to remain there rather than crowd into refugee centres. This meant that when the rains did eventually begin, they would be on the spot ready to plant crops for the next harvest.

Top-level team to see Sultan

Lord Belstead, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, flies to Brunei with a full team of officials on Thursday, for a weekend of talks over the oil-rich sultanate's forthcoming independence. Henry Stanhope writes. Reports that Mr Arthur Watson, High Commissioner in Brunei, had been recalled amid an atmosphere of strained relations with the Sultan were side-stepped by officials in Whitehall. Relations between the two countries were "pretty good", they said. Mr Watson had returned only because he had completed four and a half years' service there. Negotiations over the details of Brunei's independence were postponed in January when the Sultan objected to the low-level British team.

13 technicians held hostage

Algiers (AFP) - Thirteen foreign technicians, two of them British, employed by a West German geophysical prospecting firm have been held prisoner by Algerian workers on a site in southern Algeria since Monday. They have been prevented from leaving the site by about 100 Algerians - protesting for higher pay and improved working conditions.

Peking calls back editors

Peking (AFP) - A group of Chinese editors cut short a study tour of the United States and returned to Peking after China's suspension of all sports and cultural exchanges with the United States. It was the first concrete action taken by China to protest at the United States decision to give political asylum to Hu Na the young Chinese tennis star.

Big US guns reach front

Bangkok (Reuters) - Two C5 Galaxy aircraft loaded with eight 155mm howitzers landed in Bangkok after a non-stop flight from the United States. It was the second shipment of American weapons to arrive on Thailand's request. The giant guns were immediately taken to the Cambodian border, where Thai and Vietnamese Cambodian troops are locked in artillery battles.

Town under the hammer

Mary Kathleen (Reuters) - A week-long auction of the uranium mining town of Mary Kathleen in the Australian outback began with two churches, bus shelters and a supermarket, all roof-framed, up for sale. The 226 houses have already been sold. Mary Kathleen, 900 miles northwest of Brisbane, was built in the late 1950s to provide Britain with uranium oxide. The ore ran out. In October, the land will revert to pasture for sheep.

Soviet sacking

Moscow (AFP) - Mr Vladimir Lomopossov, president of the Soviet state labour and social affairs committee, has been dismissed and replaced by Mr Yuri Batalin, First Deputy Minister for oil and gas industry, forestry, construction, Tass reports.

Lippizaner 2

Graz (Reuters) - Austria's Agriculture Minister Herr Günther Haider disclosed plans to set up a second farm to breed Lippizaner horses to reduce the danger of virus infections. His ministry administers the stud farm at Fiben, where 36 of the famous horses died from a rare combination of viruses.

Novosti's chief

Moscow (AP) - Mr Pavel Naumov, aged 63, becomes head of the semi-official Soviet news agency Novosti. Previously deputy head, he replaces Mr Lev Tolstunov, who was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Izvestia in February.

First black

Hairare (Reuters) - The Zimbabwe Government appointed Mr Charles Uete as the country's first black Secretary to the Cabinet, the top civil service job. Mr Uete, aged 44, replaces Mr George Smith, reassigned to the Justice Ministry.

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio (AFP) - Seven explosions destroyed holiday homes in Corsica, owned by residents of Paris and in one case West Germany. Since April, there have been 25 such attacks, blamed on separatists seeking to end French rule.

Coal line

Peking (Reuters) - China is planning a 420-mile pipeline to transport coal from mines in Inner Mongolia where, it is said, the United States energy group, is to build a new mine.

Polish Government takes steps to control impact of Pope's visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Government's deep anxiety about the possibility of pro-Solidarity demonstrations and social unrest during the Pope's visit to Poland in June has become clear in its negotiations with the Catholic Church.

The church, though it will continue to press for a general amnesty for those arrested under martial law, appears to be reconciled to more piecemeal concessions before the Pope arrives. Officials hint that the process of granting clemency on an individual basis to some imprisoned Solidarity activists may be speeded up.

They are also suggesting that the Government is ready to allow the establishment of a Papal Nunciature in Warsaw, though the church would prefer to wait and see how successfully the Pope's trip is managed before committing itself to such an upgrading of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and a communist country.

Even so, the planning of the trip is notable for its attempts to cushion the Pope from the masses. He will be based in the Jasna Gora monastery in Czestochowa for four days, and will fly by helicopter to other cities, thereby reducing the need for public car journeys.

There is little stress on open-air masses - probably only one will be staged - and television planners are hoping to give the visit broader coverage than in 1979, to reduce the number of people on the streets. Some factories will have television monitors, again with the idea of keeping down the crowds.

These elaborate precautions serve the joint purpose of increasing crowd control, ensuring that crowds do not become demonstrations, and improving the personal security of the Pope.

Any meeting with Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, would almost certainly be in private, as a joint public appearance would be socially explosive.

A meeting with General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, is envisaged early in the tour, and it is understood that Archbishop Luigi Poggi, a Vatican expert on East European affairs, has been consulted on the protocol of the talks.

Church sources emphasize, however, that the visit has not been neutered in the negotiations. The Pope has scope in his sermons to criticize the status quo in Poland. Moreover, the church has won the important concession of a visit to Poznan on or around the anniversary of the 1956 workers' riots.

A trip is also planned to a miners' shrine in Silesia, where prayers are likely to be said for the miners shot by militiamen in clashes at the Wajtek colliery soon after the declaration of martial law in December, 1981.

Officials seem adamant that martial law will not be lifted (it is only suspended at present) before the Pope's visit.

Activist on trial: Mr Edmund Balukawa, a prominent Solidarity activist in Szczecina went on trial before a military court in Bydgoszcz yesterday. In February the European Parliament's Socialist group appealed for his release, after reports that he had begun a hunger strike. He is charged with advocating the overthrow of the socialist system and the withdrawal of Poland from the Warsaw Pact.

Popular complaints: Mr Albin Siwak, regarded as a dogmatic Marxist within the Polish Politburo, yesterday called for tough controls on managers, chairmen of factories and high officials, and admitted that he had received many complaints from ordinary working people.

They often report to me facts which are reminiscent of Wild West films or scenes from the Middle Ages. I find it deplorable that the majority of these complaints turns out to be true.

Mr Siwak, who was writing in the daily *Trybuna Ludu*, is in charge of the complaints department of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Afghanistan negotiators show mood of optimism

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In an atmosphere of determined optimism, two weeks of discussions on resolving the Afghanistan problem began at the Palais des Nations in Geneva yesterday, with the UN special representative, Señor Diego Cordóvez, acting as intermediary between Afghan and Pakistani delegations headed by their respective foreign ministers.

Mr Yagub Khan, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, whose delegation went first to talk with Señor Cordóvez, said that whatever the difficulties, which could not be underestimated, the meetings should be "conducted in a positive spirit as a constructive endeavour to try to achieve some progress".

Since the previous round, last June, it had been possible to go gradually into greater detail as an approach to the substance of the problem. His Afghan counterpart, Mr Mohamed Dost, whose delegation went to the same room later to confer with the UN representative, declined to comment.

Señor Cordóvez has indicated that, as before, he is keeping the Iranians and the Russians informed of any significant development - though Afghan resistance leaders maintain, of course, that without direct involvement of either Soviet or resistance representatives, the discussions are unrealistic.

For his part, Señor Cordóvez speaks with assurance about "a convergence of determination to reach a comprehensive settlement". This, he says, is being shown by all governments concerned, without exception.



Over and out: Enrique Vera, a *Banderillero*, coming to grief while trying to plant his barbed darts in the bull's neck during a bullfight at Castellón, eastern Spain, on Sunday. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Poll rebuff for Nakasone policies

Tokyo (Reuters) - Leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) admitted yesterday that its defeat in two key local elections amounted to a severe rebuff for Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, and his policies.

Mr Nakasone, criticized by left-wing opponents for his hardline defence stand, said of the results from the two areas considered particularly vital in the voting for local bodies across the country: "I sincerely accept the realities and will pull myself together".

He indicated that the results had sharply reduced the chances of a general election in June. He told reporters: "Lower House members should in principle complete their terms, I'm not thinking of a dissolution".

The four-year term of the Lower House is not due to end until June 1984 and an early poll had been predicted if the LDP did well in key areas. Instead, a Socialist was elected Governor in Hokkaido prefecture in northern Japan to end 24 years of conservative rule, while a Socialist-Communist candi-

date became Governor of Fukuoka in the south where the LDP had reigned for 16 years.

Mr Takao Fujinami, the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, said the LDP accepted the outcome as a stern criticism of the Administration.

Mr Takao Fukuda, the former Prime Minister, who is a strong critic of Mr Nakasone within the party, called the results utterly unexpected.

Both the Government and the Liberal Democratic Party should humbly reflect on them", he said.

Imee Marcos: Secret marriage after eloping

Manila's worst-kept secret out

From David Watts, Manila

Imee, the eldest daughter of President and Mrs Imelda Marcos, has given birth to a son in Hawaii and Manila's worst kept secret is out.

For months Imee's pregnancy has been the capital's hottest gossip in a city where the "First Family" dominates all the media.

But not a word of the impending confinement in the seclusion of a friend's house near Diamond Head has leaked into the newspapers or on to Manila's television stations. Imee's controversial marriage to a divorced basketball coach, Tommy Manotoc, a year ago is too recent for that. Mr Manotoc was formerly married to a beauty queen.

Mr Marcos had always had great marriage ambitions for the beautiful and talented Imee which were shattered when she eloped with Mr Manotoc to the United States and married him secretly.

The elopement was short lived but not Mrs Marcos's opposition to the marriage. Not long afterwards Mr Manotoc was mysteriously kidnapped and disappeared for six weeks. He reappeared equally mysteriously after allegedly being rescued by the army.

The Marcos "family" have never publicly acknowledged the marriage, not least because Mrs Marcos had other ambitions for Imee but also relatives of Mr Manotoc in the United States are leading anti-Marcos movements.

The Marcos' first grandchild weighed in at 6lb 8oz and is in good health. All Manila now waits to see if Mrs Marcos will fly in Honolulu to see the child. In public, at least, the two women have lately appeared to be on better terms.

Greenland vote may alter relations with Brussels

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Greenland's 32,000 electorate votes today in local elections, the result of which could affect the current delicate negotiations in Brussels on the territory's withdrawal from the EEC.

The elections are only the second in the vast icebound island since it achieved home rule under the Danish crown in 1979 and the first since Greenland narrowly voted to leave the EEC in a referendum last year.

Recently revised electoral laws make the outcome of the elections hard to predict, but the ruling moderate leftist anti-EEC Siumut party of Mr Johathan Motzfeldt, current chairman of the local Greenland Landsting (parliament) in the capital Godthaab is expected to lose ground to the opposition rightist and pro-Market Atassut party, paving the way for a minority administration.

The possibilities are wide. The two main parties could combine, or either of them could ally with the leftist Inuit (Eskimo) party. There is also a "wild card" - an independent rightist candidate standing for the 1,200 newly-enfranchised Danes working at US military bases on Greenland. In the 26-seat Landsting one vote could make all the difference.

There is nonetheless broad political consensus in Greenland to seek an OLT (Overseas Lands and Territories) associate arrangement with the EEC, using the island's considerable offshore fish resources as a lever in negotiations with Brussels for withdrawal from the EEC by January 1, 1984.

West German trawlers currently fish some 16,000 tonnes of cod out of a total annual catch around 60,000 tonnes of the species off east and west Greenland, where French fishermen also take sizeable shrimp catches.

Greenland, which first became a Danish colony in 1721, originally joined the EEC along with Denmark in 1973.

Athens says yes, but... to EEC proposals

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Greek Government told the European Commission yesterday that it was encouraged by its proposals for helping Greece to overcome the difficulties involved in community membership. It asked however, for further consultations to clarify some points.

The Greek reaction, described by experts as a qualified "yes", was communicated to Mr Richard Burke, the European Commissioner in charge of the memorandum, submitted by Greece last year, who visited Athens briefly yesterday.

After a meeting with Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and his princi-

pal ministers, Mr Burke said at a press conference: "I am reasonably optimistic. The ministers gave me the impression that they were happy with the response given to the memorandum."

President Karamanlis, who is the architect of Greece's accession to the EEC made one of his rare press statements after receiving Mr Burke.

"The Commissioner's proposals are inspired by goodwill", he added, "and show understanding for the problems of the Greek economy. I believe the European Council will adopt them and improve them as suggested."

S Africa: Barbara Hogan

By Caroline Moorehead

A South African postgraduate student who helped to organize trade unions for black workers is serving a 10-year prison sentence. Since her arrest, Barbara Hogan, aged 31, has alleged that she was beaten up by security police. Two officers have been tried for assault, but acquitted after the magistrate ruled that her word alone was not enough to convict them.

On October 21, 1982, the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg sentenced Miss Hogan to 10 years for treason. She had admitted to belonging to the banned African National Congress (ANC), but denied being a member of its military wing, or having taken part in violent activities. In the past, only members of this wing, Spear of the Nation, have been charged with treason and convicted.

Before her arrest, however,



Miss Hogan: Actions seen as treason



Prisoners of conscience

Miss Hogan had worked for the South African Institute of Race Relations, and had helped to arrange boycotts by the black community of companies involved in industrial disputes. The court was therefore able to declare that, since she was also a member of ANC, her activities had in effect furthered the organization's aims, one of which, the Government says, is to bring about the violent overthrow of the state. Though her offence was admitted to be "of rather a technical nature", her actions were judged as treasonable.

Since being taken into detention, Miss Hogan has spent some time in solitary confinement. A district surgeon called in to examine her at the time of her trial, has reported the presence of injuries he did not believe could have been self-inflicted.

Finns begin the search for new coalition

From Our Correspondent, Helsinki

Finland's centre-left coalition, led by Mr Kalevi Sorsa, resigned yesterday and talks began on forming a new Government following the recent general election.

President Koivisto started the process by asking Mr Erkki Pystynen, the new Speaker of the Eduskunta, Finland's unicameral parliament, to find out what kind of a coalition is feasible.

Mr Pystynen, a conservative, is not, however, a Prime Minister-designate, who will be named after preliminary soundings are completed.

Mr Sorsa is the strongest candidate to succeed himself in the post of Prime Minister and the new coalition will almost certainly include the present coalition partners; Mr Sorsa's Social Democrats the Centre Party and the Swedish Peoples Party.

These three parties made gains in the elections last month. The Communists, who have been the fourth regular partner for more than a decade, lost heavily. Their internal quarrels are worse than ever and are likely to keep them in opposition. The party may split into two before the summer.

All important political leaders emphasize the need to form a broadly based coalition.



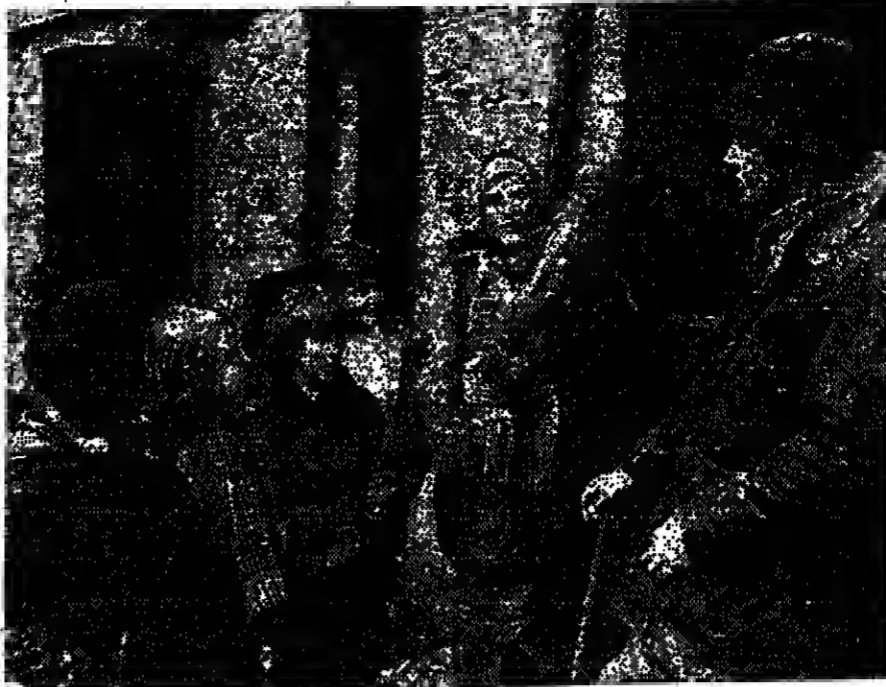
Fairy tales can come true.

There's a little magic in every glass of Martini Dry. In its clean, fresh taste. In its unique blend of the choicest wines and herbs. But, most magical of all, it doesn't have to disappear at midnight.



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SPECTRUM



Somewhere east of Okehampton, John Young finds a farm where children can muck out the stables, feed the ducks and forget television

Where city and country meet

The rain is advancing in cold, violent gusts, hiding the hills and reducing visibility to almost nothing as we pick our way along the narrow high-banked Devon lanes. Somewhere east of Okehampton we are halted by a tar-laying machine occupying the entire width of the road; retracing our steps and taking a still more circuitous route, we arrive only a few minutes late at one of those medium-sized Victorian gothic piles that look as though they were always intended to end their days as preparatory schools or convalescent homes.

In fact, Nethercott House is nothing of the sort: it is the headquarters of a unique project to bring children from what are conventionally known as deprived inner city areas into contact with rural life, encompassed not in picture postcards from the National Trust but in a muddy and frequently malodorous working farm.

Farms for City Children was founded eight years ago by Michael Morpurgo, a one-time Sandhurst graduate, army officer and later teacher in Keot, who has since learned to farm and earns a partial living as a writer of children's books (his latest, *War Horses*, was runner up for this year's Whitbread prize).

He and his wife, Clare, who was also trained as a teacher, had for some time cherished the idea of a project which would give urban children some understanding of what was for most of them a foreign country, inhabited by aliens. The opportunity to realise their ambition arrived

providentially when their Land Rover got stuck in a ditch and had to be rescued by a tractor belonging to a local farmer, John Ward.

Casual acquaintance quickly blossomed into a business relationship. The Morpurgos, who had bought some land adjoining the Wards' farm, offered to make it available for extra grazing if, in return, John and his sons, David and Graham, would agree to groups of noisyurchins trailing after them as they milked the cows and made the hay.

If they needed any further convincing that their dreams and destiny were in tune, Nethercott House itself came on to the market. "Originally we had intended to find somewhere nearer London and take children on a daily basis," Michael recalls. "But now we were able to offer them accommodation for a whole week at a time."

By the time we have finished lunch, the rain has cleared and the third year pupils of

the English Martyrs Roman Catholic primary school in Walworth, south east London, are ready for their daily round of farm tasks. Mary Paterson, one of the three teachers accompanying them, is on her twelfth visit. Asked if she sometimes feels more like a farmer than a teacher, she replies feelingly, "I wish I was." Not all of them feel the same way. The Morpurgos have unhappy memories of "stroppy" teachers who, in Michael's words, "did nothing but lean on their spades and complain."

"I used to dread confronting teachers who were not prepared to cooperate or to keep the children in order," Clare confesses. "But now it doesn't worry me in the slightest. In any case most of the schools come back each year, and we've had the chance to sort out the ones we don't want and tell them politely that they're not welcome."

The 40 or so children have been split into three or four groups, and about a

dozen of them make their way down a muddy lane to the dairy, carrying pails and scrubbing brushes. Work in the dairy is accompanied by loud and spontaneous singing of "Daisy, Daisy", presumably in tribute to one of the cows, and "Old MacDonald's Farm."

Clare intersperses the work with little lectures. The male donkey has been gelded so he cannot give his companion any more babies. One of the hens has a bald spot on its back where it has been attacked by the others, the penalty of being bottom of the pecking order. A bright red comb indicates when a bird is laying eggs.

Each week of hard, healthy work costs a child's parents, or in some cases the local education authority, £45. The Inner London authority has strongly supported the scheme, and most schools taking part are from London or Birmingham. "It is quite different from the usual sort of school outing to Butlins or the Isle of Wight," Michael emphasizes. "The children come

here to work and to learn, and sometimes at first it's quite difficult for them to understand this."

Nethercott takes about 1,000 children a year, but the £45,000 or so they provide in income falls well short of the estimated running cost of at least £65,000. Some schools have been active in raising funds, and a Birmingham headmaster recently earned £600 by undertaking a sponsored walk from his school to the village of Iddesleigh, about a mile from Nethercott. Other aid has come from a variety of charities and from the BBC, Capital Radio and Sotheby's.

There have been occasional groups of handicapped children which were, according to Michael, "a marvellous success. The kids were such fun. The ironic thing is that if we were catering just for handicapped children, we would have no difficulty raising funds. But when most of the time we're dealing with just ordinary children, people tend to shrug their shoulders and

imagine that the state looks after them, or should do."

Pigs are fed and piglets cuddled. Calves are released to race greedily to a pair of suckler cows. "Hey, that's a pedigree bull calf, it's worth £150, so don't kill it," Graham Ward shouts in mock alarm. "How many teats has a cow got? Where do hamburgers come from? What's a female sheep called? Hands shoot up, faces beam, hay is fed to heifers, fresh straw is laid over carpets of dung. "Not quite like the picture books, is it?" Graham asks.

Next morning the sun is shining between scudding black clouds as we set off in gumboots across the muddy slopes to bring supplementary sections to the cows in a steep distant field. Mary O'Sullivan, the school's headmistress, cheerfully bumping a sack of hay, says that on her first visit four years ago the Nethercott scheme was seen as a one-week experience, soon to be forgotten. Now it is integrated into a whole programme of environmental studies, each independent with the others. The children's enthusiasm is astonishing. "They haven't watched television all week and, do you know, no one has ever once mentioned it."

Back in the main house, Lorraine Boyle, aged 10, produces her diary: "On Monday we stayed in and made the beds and swept the yard and took the horses down to the field and fed the ducks, chickens and cockerels and took the donkeys down to the field and cleared out the horses' stables and fed them and stayed in that night and had a rest. It was good that day."

In Tom Stonier's post-industrial future, surplus wealth will be distributed by a system of negative income tax

Visions of a world gone sane

By Neil Lyndon

Professor Tom Stonier might say of himself the words with which Saul Bellow's Herzog was introduced: "If I'm out of my mind, it's all right with me."

Stonier and the fictional Herzog share many similarities: both are American Jews, academics, vague in manner and disordered with possessions but possessed by a mania to impose a compensating order. Both are voluble, even garrulous, endlessly inventive and always losing points of order, departure and conclusion in cascades of parentheses and hyphenations. Tough cities of the north engage the affections of both: Herzog's Chicago is Stonier's Bradford, where he is Professor of Science and Society.

But where Herzog sailed in circles on a personal odyssey of introspection and self-examination, Stonier has embarked upon a voyage of discovery into seas of cosmological knowledge; and he has addressed his mind to, among other topics, the future of civilization, the economic development of the West, the end of all war, the substitution of natural energy sources for mineral fuels, and the growth of cancer cells in plants. Like one of Les Dawson's characters, Stonier can be imagined appearing on *Mastermind* and giving his chosen subject as "The Universe and all its contents."

On his new book, *The Wealth of Information*, he says: "It is an effort to kill off economic superstition and an attempt to focus a national discussion on the means to get out of the present economic mess, using post-industrial thinking."

Stonier's book takes its title and a part of its intellectual direction from Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, acting as a complementary voice to that key work of economic description and applying some of its methods, if not its terms, to the present day. Stonier says that where Smith wrote, in 1776, at the decisive moment of transition in Britain from an agrarian to an industrial society, we find ourselves today at an analogous point of transition from an industrial to a post-industrial society. In that post-industrial society, he says, information

is the decisive commodity, displacing "land, labour and capital as the most important input into modern productive systems."

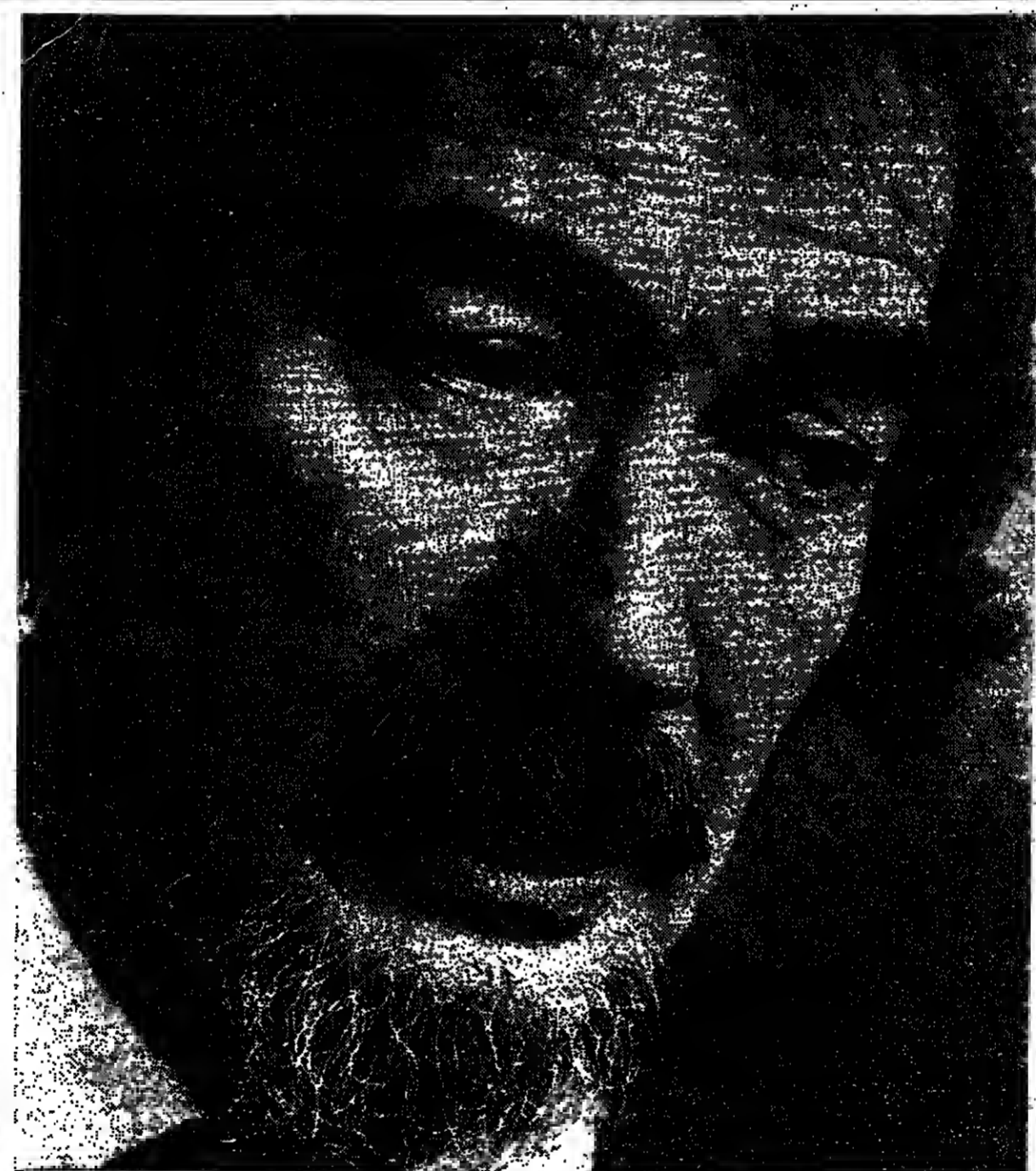
Stonier acknowledges no need - as in the models of the left - for the protection by tariff of Britain's heavy industries: "Let steel go, let automobiles go," he declares. The developing countries of the world should, he says, be the suppliers of industrial production to such post-industrial societies as Britain.

At the same time, Stonier antagonizes the Thatcherites in reversing the dictum of Adam Smith that the interference of government inhibits the growth of wealth: government in a post-industrial society, Stonier says, is not to be seen as a consumer of wealth but as the key force for investment in the knowledge industries which create wealth. As might be expected of a university professor, especially one faced, as Stonier is, with the closure of his department following government spending cuts, he thinks that the expansion of the higher education system is essential to Britain's transition to a post-industrial economy; and that spending on universities should not be considered philanthropic but directly productive of wealth.

What does he mean when he says that information is wealth? A vast and messy multitude of things, apparently. The information which creates a robot which, in turn, performs a productive task is wealth. The computer systems which maintain the electronic flow of credit are a form of wealth. The silicon-chip technology by which a desert can be irrigated and made to bloom is a form of wealth: "Wealth," he says, "is created when a non-resource is converted into a resource as a result of applying information."

The man who has taken on and contradicted all the leading contemporary theories of economic management is not, by early training, an economist (and thus he appears shaky on some elements of classical economics, such as prices). Now 56, he took his university education, at Drew and Yale, in microbiology.

During the late 1950s and the



Information, Professor Stonier says, is the means by which to regenerate Britain's prosperity

1960s, he applied his scientific knowledge to the effects of radiation and fall-out from nuclear explosions and was a leading member of a group of American scientists who publicized these effects and campaigned against the testing of nuclear weapons. From 1971-1975 he was Director of Peace Studies at Manhattan College, where he developed his view that war between developed post-industrial societies is "an institution on the demise."

A kind of personal terror seems to inspire Tom Stonier to wish to become intellectual master of all the world's territories of knowledge. It is the fear that if he cannot understand the world, it will run madly into chaos and holocaust. He acknowledges that the mainspring of this terror and of his compensating desire for omniscience is likely to have been his early childhood experiences of running, as a refugee, from Nazi Germany, from which his family fled in 1936, first to Holland and then to New York. Stonier's father was unusual among the Jews of Hamburg, he says, for seeing plainly that Hitler's attitudes towards the Jews must lead to their destruction; and thus he affirms his debt to his father for a fixed belief that understanding

and foresight are weapons and tools by which catastrophes may be averted. "If you know enough," says Stonier, "you can alter the path of human development."

This axiom, among others, places Tom Stonier as a Utopian of the old European schools, one who believes that social ills may not be intrinsic to human life but may be alleviated by applied reason and understanding. For instance, he supposes that the ancient antagonism of the people of Northern Ireland would soon evaporate if the proper order of post-industrial investment was made there - in education, in the new information industries, in the use of natural sources of energy, in agriculture and in fish-farming. In his book, he succinctly derides such a futile and cost-inefficient investment in conventional industry as De Lorean Motor Cars, showing how the £67m invested there to provide 2,000 jobs might, applied to the education system, create 10 times that level of employment. On this issue he speaks from a firm platform of direct personal knowledge: in Bradford, traditionally one of the industrial powerhouses of Britain, the largest employer today is the council, closely followed by the university.

Economists of all conventional schools - Keynesians and monetarists alike - might say that a society so lopsided as Bradford in its bias towards services unproductive of materials and commodities (wealth as it has been known) cannot stand. Stonier would answer that they have failed to grasp a cardinal shift in the economy. "Within 30 years," he says, "it will take no more than 10 per cent of the labour force to produce all of society's material needs - all food, clothing, textiles, furniture, appliances, automobiles, housing, et cetera."

At the end of our conversation, as at the end of his new book, Tom Stonier spoke of further visions which he blurred with an embarrassed reticence, lest he be thought a crank or crackpot: a vision, for example, of a post-industrial society so wealthy that it can, like Alaska in 1980, afford a negative income-tax and distribute surplus revenues in cash to its citizens. "I believe that we are witnessing the beginnings of a process as profound as the origin of life itself," he says.

If Tom Stonier is out of his mind, it seems to be all right with him; and he certainly does not seem to be harming anybody else. But what if he is right?

MORFOVER... Miles Kingston

Keeping life's great goal in view



Hello, Phil Marsh here. The totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Football Adviser to the Church of England.

Yes, Fund-raising Phil. I'm here today to make an appeal on behalf of this week's good cause. I wonder if you can guess what that is? Do you know what needs support more desperately than anything else in British life today?

I especially remember one young man who arrived last month, discarded by his team simply because he wasn't playing well enough. I bade him welcome. He responded by aiming a vicious kick at my shins. Later, he explained his action thus: "Sorry, Rev. I thought you were going to retaliate."

That's right, British football. Once upon a time, football was the most popular leisure activity in Britain, after religion. Every week twenty million people would turn up at Old Trafford, and that was just on the days when Manchester United were playing away. But now football ranks 39th in the list of British sports, lower even than stamp collecting, lawnmower racing and budgie-baiting. This can't be right.

Luckily I was an old enough hand to see this coming, and managed to scythe him down before he could get me. This young man is now in hospital, where we can look after him. But for this sort of work we need money, and that is why we are asking each of you to send a million pounds to help British football.

And now things may be even worse, if football disappears from television. In future you may switch out for the match of the day to find yourself watching basketball on ice from Stockholm or underwater surfing from Australia. This can't be right, either.

There are some people who say that British football is too far gone, and that we ought to have to pray for its soul. But believe me, we have tried that all this season. And now England does not have a single team left in European competitions. What God is telling us, I think, is to roll down our socks and get really stuck in. This must be right, surely.

One of our basic human rights, along with the right to strike and the right to waste time in the last five minutes, is the right to switch on the television at any time of night or day and see a man called Brian saying: "More football after the break."

We in the Church of England are especially aware of football's plight, as religion itself used to be Britain's top leisure activity and we are now even lower down the list than football. We need even more money than football, if that is possible. In fact, religion will be next week's good cause and I'll be back then to tell you more about this wonderful pastime.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No. 36)

ACROSS

- 1 Incidental remarks (6)
- 5 Seabird (4)
- 8 Insect (5)
- 9 Exterior (7)
- 11 Opener (8)
- 13 Actor's part (4)
- 15 Water-tight enclosure (9)
- 18 Shoe fastener (4)
- 19 Geological balance (8)
- 22 More vacant (7)
- 23 Sum (5)
- 24 Eyelid infection (4)
- 25 Greek paper (6)

DOWN

- 2 Indian title (5)
- 3 Father (3)
- 4 Garment support (8,5)
- 5 Location (4)
- 6 Unchanging (7)
- 7 Fleeced (5)
- 10 Pitcher (4)
- 12 News (4)
- 14 Likelihood (4)
- 15 Pilot's place (7)
- 16 Sour fruit (4)
- 17 Series of events (5)
- 20 Sacrificial pison (5)
- 21 Drink (4)
- 23 Knack (5)

SOLUTION TO No 35

ACROSS: 1 Unconfirmed 9 Indulge 10 Taste 11 Ash 12 Any 16 Part 17 Virile 18 Inca 20 Fern 21 Stucco 22 Uppas 23 Gail 25 Mow 28 Liza 29 Amongst 30 Precipitate

DOWN: 2 Nadir 3 Only 4 Flea 5 Ruth 6 Enanare 7 Hilariously 8 Retractions 12 Solace 14 Ova 15 Write 19 Chamber 20 Fog 24 Angst 25 Marc 26 Wasp 27 Foot

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

THE OTHER CHIC

The recent fashion collections offer fascinating new evidence for the theory that there is a correlation between the hemline and the economy.

In Robert Beckman's newly published book *The Downward* (Milestone Publications £7.95), the economist elaborates on the idea that louché and provocative fashions (low necklines and thigh-high skirts) reflect expanding economies and that a downturn reduces this "erotic capital", sending hemlines modestly downwards and necklines to Puritan heights. The "hemline indicator" has been traced back over a span of 200 years.

But there is now no single fashion style. The wide divergence in skirt lengths between the different fashion capitals which I discussed last summer was even more marked for the autumn season. In particular, the French, to the surprise of the fashion world, almost unanimously dropped their hemlines to mid-calf. This fall (in contrast to the short, sexy clothes currently in the French shops) occurred in the same week that President Mitterand was putting a metaphorical corner on the economy. The expensive socialist programme of spending was at an end and so was the short-lived mood for sexually titillating fashion.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, the London designers, equally unanimously, raised their hemlines. Economists can work out a suitable scenario for Britain's future performance...



"We are united by colour," says painter and weaver Kaffie Fassett of the two artist friends who share his exhibition opening in Covent Garden today.

Kaffie Fassett is best known for his knits - rainbows of colour that clothe the famous, like Lauren Bacall, Ali McGraw and John Schlesinger, and also inspire more earth-bound knitters to experiment with pattern and colour.

The magic carpet coats and jackets - all designed for both sexes - form the core of the selling exhibition, but Kaffie Fassett's rich patterns and colours are also on show in his paintings and needlepoint. Alongside are Richard Womersley's densely-textured rugs and blankets and luminous photographs by Steve Lovi, many of them still lifes of Kaffie's work.

The three artists work together and "spark each other off," says Fassett who came to London from Big Sur, California in the 1960s. The exhibition has been mounted by Hugh Ehrman who has worked with Kaffie Fassett to produce tapestry kits and more recently knitting packs, both of which will be on sale to encourage the rest of us to emulate the artists. Kaffie Fassett at Seven Dials Gallery, 56 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 until April 23 (closed Sundays).

It started as a brief homage to Noel Coward. Now the selection of chic silk dressing gowns that Simpson, Piccadilly, put on sale beside a video recording of the recent television documentary, have proved a West End sell-out. Any man who fancies a slither of wrap-around silk or an elegant towelling robe (in a selection of fruit sorbet colours at £60) will find the ground floor of the store stamped with Coward's fashion trademark.

The simple, tailored dressing gown, so difficult to find in frillier female lingerie departments, is an all-British fashion story, and I suspect that many of Simpson's customers will consider it too good to be left to the men.

Imaginative cotton weaves, richly coloured wools, luxuriously decorated textiles and boldly patterned knits were all on display last week at Fabrics, the annual British fabric fair now in its fifth year.

New this season was a special stand devoted to the imaginative work of four young designers, all award winners in the Royal Society of Arts Design Business. Julia Witton's collection of cotton weaves with a slightly worn effect was given the main award. The 23-year-old textile designer used particular inspiration as she followed the brief to create fabrics that could be made by a small production unit - such as she herself hopes to become when she leaves Brighton polytechnic this year.



Left: Sunshine separates. Silver grey linen sleeveless top £45, slim half-lined skirt £59. Also in peach, rose pink, pale blue and honey beige from Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street W1. Harvey Nichols and Ambers of Amersham. Skirt also Suzanne, Cobham. Earrings by Monty Don for Roland Klein. Silver, blue and black triple chain belt, £15, and metal twist bangles £4 each, by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street, WC2; mail order from Sheila Teague, 45/46 Charlotte Road, EC2. White and black Chanel-style sling-backs £32 from Hobbs, 47 South Molton Street W1, 84 Kings Road SW3, 8 Hampstead High Street, NW3.

Above left: The basic suit. In grey and black stripe linen and silk mix with long collarless jacket and mid-calf button-through skirt (or alternative skirt to the knee). Price £169. Black and white spotted silk fly front top £59. All from Roland Klein Brook Street W1, Taylor and Hadow, Beauchamp Place SW3, Ambers, Amersham, Frazers, Glasgow. Silver and black anodised aluminium earrings £17.25 and twisted metal bangles, £4 each, by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street WC2. Silver grey tights by Elbeo. Punched leather slip-ons by Orizelle £18 in white, black, and red from Way In at Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Chelsea Cobbler, 54 King's Road SW3 and selected branches of Rayne.

Above right: Black and white graphic check tunic and black pants (or with alternative straight skirt) £149 from Roland Klein, 26 Brook Street, W1, Taylor and Hadow, Beauchamp Place, SW3, Ambers, Amersham, Frazers, Glasgow. Pearl and crystal necklace by Monty Don for Roland Klein. Sparkle bar brooch by Corocraft. Earrings by Butler and Wilson. Black satin evening shoes with bow ties £85 from Manolo Blahnik, 49/51 Old Church Street, London SW3.

Bucks. Striped silk and linen jacket as suit above. Black silk boater by Viv Knowland £49 from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge. Black multi-chain belt and silvered earrings by Sheila Teague from Detail, Endell Street, WC2; mail order from 45/46 Charlotte Road, EC2. Bone tights by Elbeo. Spotted shoes with ankle ties by Camille Unglik from Rayne 66 New Bond Street, W1, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and selected branches of Rayne. Hair by Clifford Brake for Michaeljohn. Make-up by Clifford Brake for Charles of the Ritz. Photographs by John Swanwell.

Roland Klein: a French background and a feel for fashion

Best shop assistant in town



Roland Klein plays with his collection like a child with a Rubik cube. Nimble fingers work skirts, suits, jackets, dresses in ever-changing combinations.

"Everything goes with anything," he says. "I work from piece to piece and from season to season to build up a wardrobe. It all follows on."

Almost every working day of the year, Roland Klein practices his skills at putting clothes together by serving in his small London shop, where uninitiated customers must think that they have stumbled by chance on the best sales assistant in town. He says that it is his way of going direct to his public where "they can see the way I am thinking and the way I like to work." He also, he admits, actually enjoys fitting clothes to customer and has a feel for fashion that may come partly from his native French background. It is also the fruit of years of quiet apprenticeship before he emerged ten years ago with his own label and more recently with his own shop.

"Being French, one has one's feet on the ground," he explains in his Gallic lilt untouched by years in England. "A French woman only buys a colour and a line that lasts from one season to the next. We are practical, careful about money. The French are a solid people."

Roland Klein also had a solid fashion training at a classic couture school in Paris, where the star pupil of the previous year was the young Yves Saint Laurent and his contemporaries were Jean-Louis Scherrer and Tan Giudicelli.

Klein went on to work in haute couture in the tailoring room at Dior and for three years at Jean Patou, where he was assistant to Karl Lagerfeld. "He was wonderful to work with," says Klein. "He is a very nice person, and also an artist, interested in everything, mad about opera, music and painting. I learned a lot from him."

His collection comes into that vanishing category of clothes that are properly made and finished in good fabrics, and in a price bracket that is halfway between high fashion and high street. The entire spring wardrobe photographed on this page adds up to just under £700, with the average outfit around £150 (or less if you choose the man-made alternatives to pure silk).

The clothes are made by his parent company, Marcel Fenez, whom he joined when the "swinging sixties" acted as a fashion magnet drawing him to London. It is just ten years since the company's founder, Marcel Fenez, had the foresight to give Roland Klein his own label, thus preventing the usual flight of a strong designer to set up on his own. The shop in Brook Street was opened two years ago as part of the process of bringing the designer out of the shadows.

Now the shop has some star-studded customers (including the Princess of Wales, although Klein is too discreet to mention her). But he has the same zeal to communicate his clothes to customers in the Roland Klein boutiques at Harrods and Harvey Nichols, where he personally trains the staff and explains the clothes to them.

I told Roland Klein that his seminars of style were too good to give away. So he has decided to combine his own plan of a customer show with a fashion workshop in which he will explain how his clothes work together. I said that I would challenge all my readers who doubt that modern fashion can ever be for them, to come and see him in action. The shows will be on Thursday

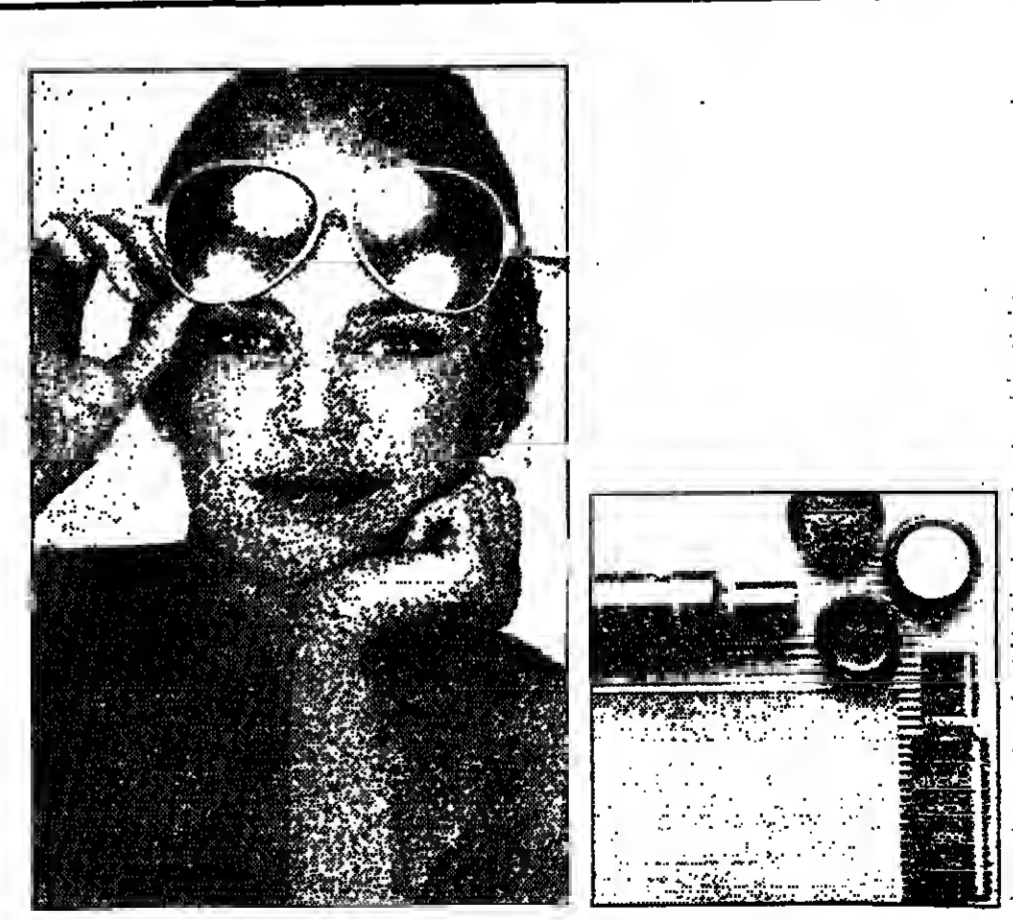
April 21 (details below) with myself in the role of introducer and observer. They will take place not in a grand hotel ballroom, but in the Marcel Fenez showroom, for Roland Klein's philosophy is that clothes are made to be worn, not for a fashion extravaganza.

"I don't make clothes for the catwalk and I don't even think that they should be worn exactly as they are shown," he says. "I suppose that my ideal customer would be a career woman of some personality who puts her own stamp on my clothes." He himself personifies this quiet elegance with his neatly clipped moustache and well-brushed shoes at the extremities and a smart collar, pearl grey tie, simple black cotton sweater and Prince of Wales check trousers in between.

His Parisian contemporaries are now part of massive and money-spinning fashion empires with licensing arrangements round the world and their labels on everything from umbrellas to undies. By contrast, Roland Klein, although his clothes sell well throughout Britain and abroad, lives modestly. His elegant house in Kensington is decorated with the exquisite good taste that first brought him the attention of Karl Lagerfeld (Klein did the workroom decor for a party at Patou and was made design assistant on the strength of it).

The home buyer at Harvey Nichols was so impressed by Klein's sense of style that she asked him to design a range of bed linen (including a chic striped dressing robe) that is now on sale nationwide. He is working on other design projects, and I would not underestimate the chances of this discreet Frenchman, still only 44, having his elegant signature on boxes of shoes (or even boxes of chocolates) before the eighties are much older.

Roland Klein fashion shows and style seminars on April 21 at 11.00 am and 3.00 pm at 26 Bruton Place, W1. Tickets £7.50 from 26, Brook Street, London W1.



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Tomorrow:
Wednesday Page
Luring ways with trout; Penny Perrick's Connemara Diary

COURT AND SOCIAL

OBITUARY

SIR HAROLD MITCHELL
Notable figure in international business

Sir Harold Mitchell, Bt, who died on April 8 aged 82 at his home on Marshall's Island, Bermuda...

Mitchell's business energies were directed abroad. He had already, with his brother, acquired mining interests in Canada and his application to the problem of getting coal out of the ground in mountainous and frozen regions created a major success of the Western Canadian mining concern, the Luscar Group named after Luscar in Flie, where he was born.



Early Rubens may fetch £250,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Rubens's painting of "Amor and Psyche", without the assistance of a vast studio, as in his later works, are rare. That period is much sought after by collectors...

Television drama series loses its prime-time slot

By Kenneth Gossling

A drama series made for the independent network by Granada Television has been moved from a prime-time slot on Thames Television because of its poor ratings.

Money-spinning Swiss prints

Swiss views proved to be money-spinners at Phillips's sale of fine decorative prints yesterday.

Northern Ireland gallery awards

The following awards for service in Northern Ireland between August 1, 1982, and October 31, 1982, are announced today:

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Ronald Pearson, Chairman of the Post Office...

Latest wills

Mary Marjory Naber, of South Kensington, London, left an estate valued at £927,432 net...

Farm call for dog insurance

The National Farmers' Union is to press for legislation to compel dog owners to insure against injuries inflicted on farm animals...



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE APRIL 11: The Duke of Edinburgh, a Trustee, this morning attended a meeting of the Council of St George's House at Windsor Castle.

Luncheon

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

Reception

Gold and Silver Wye Drainages' Custodian Mr Norman Harding, Master of the Gold and Silver Wye Drainages' Company, assisted by the Wardens...

Dinner

Anglo-American Sporting Club The Anglo-American Sporting Club held a dinner at the Hotel Piccadilly, Manchester, last night...

Service dinner

TA & VR Association, North of England The Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for the North of England last night held a dinner in Durham Castle to mark the triennial endorsement of the constitution of the association...

Meeting

Royal Overseas Seals League Mr Charles Wintour was guest speaker at a meeting of the discussion circle of the Royal Overseas Seals League held last night at Overseas House, St James's...

England faces world's best bridge players

By a Bridge Correspondent The regional finals of the Continental Life Cup, organized by the English Bridge Union, took place at four venues last weekend...

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. McAlpin was christened on April 10 at the church of St Martin in Swinstead Hall Chapel, Swinstead, Cheshire, on Sunday...

Birthdays today

Mr Alan Ayckbourn, 44; Mr Paul Cook, 37; Miss Joan Gibb, 76; Mr Edward Hine, 46; Lord Inglewood, 74; Mr Uwe Kitzinger, 45; The Earl of Limerick, 53; Mr A. W. Mabbs, 62; Mr Brian Magee, 57; Air Marshal Sir Harold Melville, 71; Mr Bobby Moore, 42; Mr B. L. Postle, 66; Sir Donald Pageau, 81; Mr William Redpath, 90; Mr Michael Shanks, 56.

Latest appointments

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. H. G. Burrell and Miss J. S. Thomas The engagement is announced between Michael, second son of Grace Boswell, of Wiltborough, Dorset, and the late Arnold Boswell, and Jill Simone, elder daughter of Maroile Thomas, of Johannesburg, and the late David Thomas.

Requesting Mass

Requesting Mass will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral today at 12.30 pm for Archbishop Hubertus R. Cardinalis. The bishops of England and Wales will concelebrate with the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop Bruno Heim...

Viscountess Bridgeman

Viscountess Bridgeman gave birth to a son in Winchester yesterday.

Marriages

Captain J. A. B. Duxford and Miss V. A. Crotts The engagement is announced between Captain John Duxford, of the Royal Tank Regiment, and Miss Veronica Ann Crotts.

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Sovereign's Parade, Sandhurst

The Sultan of Oman represented the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst yesterday.

Latest appointments

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Latest wills

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Mr Arthur Peake, who died on April 7 at the age of 77, was chairman and managing director of the Leicester Mercury from 1963 to 1970, and in 1972 was elected President of the Newspaper Society.

THE ARTS

Television Power in the pit

Vietnam (Channel 4) last night examined the Roots of War...

This programme (the first of 12) made it quite clear that in fact, when they were not fighting...

This series is no doubt going to explore the Vietnamese War with the same relentless thoroughness...

Peter Ackroyd



Edmund Dulac, 1882-1953 Geffrye Museum

Gustave Doré, 1832-1883

Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox

seldom helps a reputation in the long run.

Edmund Dulac is an interesting case in point. The exhibition marking the centenary of his birth...

And yet he always remained something of an exotic, as distinctly French, for all his attempts to change his spots...

development of colour photography as a medium for the reproduction of delicate watercolour originals.

While Dulac's delicate fancy in his illustrative work is very English, the taste for elegant simplicity...

Galleries How the French took England by storm and stealth

The elegant gallic simplicity of Dulac's The Love of a Foolish Angel (1929)...



In a relatively small compass - for Dulac's art was essentially miniature - the show plays vivid tribute to his versatility and technical mastery.

Another, very different, Frenchman made an indelible mark on England and the English, Gustave Doré died just a few months after Dulac was born...

idealizing tendency; he felt that Doré was coarse and crude and brutal, and that the crowds at the Doré Gallery might as well pay to meet the Devil.

Doré was one of art's great myth-makers, and if, even at their jolliest, his myths tend towards the grim and the brutal...

John Russell Taylor

David Bowie has recently gone East, for the first film made jointly by Britain and Japan. Peter Popham reports

Cinematic attempt to bridge cultures

The only real opportunity afforded by history for the British and the Japanese to get to know each other was in the POW camps of South-East Asia during the Second World War.

Laurens van der Post's 1963 novel The Seed and the Sower. Sir Laurens spent several years during the war as a prisoner in Java...



David Bowie as "Straffer" Jack Celliers

His experience as their prisoner was scarcely happier than anybody else's, but he was at least granted some insight into the reasons for the Japanese cruelty.

their conflicting codes of honour. The Seed and the Sower was published in Japan in 1973, the year that Oshima won the Director's Prize at Cannes for Empire of Passion.

Oshima's 21 previous films were all made in Japan. "This is my first film to be shot overseas, my first to use foreign stars and my first one to be spoken largely in English."

er named "Straffer" Jack Celliers, who is driven by a powerful desire to atone for having betrayed his slightly deformed younger brother years earlier.

One of the film's key relationships is between Celliers and the Japanese officer Vono, played by Ryueichi Sakamoto...

Why a film on this subject now? Oshima says: "The Second World War is the root of all my experience. At a time when there's another crisis and the possibility of a war occurring again...

LSO/Previn Festival Hall

It takes a great performer to find the heart of a less than great work and keep it beating...

It is a work which could not be easily mistaken for anyone else's; yet it would probably be difficult for the innocent ear to identify it as Goldmark's Fingerprints of Schumann...

When Goldmark's long thoughts threatened to outstay their welcome, Perlman would snatch them up and urge them on. And when the orchestra's diffidence, nicely calculated by André Previn, became merely bland, Perlman would draw the strings into quiet, five episodes

Hilary Finch

AAM/Hogwood St John's

Among the most attractive restorations to the concert and gramophone repertory by Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music is Haendel's only known suite of theatre music for a spoken play, Alceste...

He later reworked most of this as a cantata, The Choice of Hercules, but in its original form the Alceste music is diverting, beautifully crafted and mostly cheerful in spirit.

Noël Goodwin

Concerts

Radu Lupu Queen Elizabeth Hall

At first I wondered if Radu Lupu was often so studiously severe as he seemed at the outset of his concert in the South Bank Piano Series on Sunday, which he divided between Schubert and Schumann. He made an impetuous, almost aggressive start on the latter's Carnival March from Tanna...

When he turned to the same composer's Humoreske, Op 20, he moved from one episode to the next like a romantic balladeer, as if Schumann were telling stories about himself through the medium of music and its wealth of inflections.

cry of C minor before the finale was savage rather than gentle. Even so, there was absolute conviction of musical purpose as well as impressive strength of technique underlying all that the pianist did.

However, the trio that was generated by this was turned to fascinating account in the rhapsodic second movement, where Mr Lupu became more overtly relaxed and shaped the sequence of alternating melodies with a beguiling and seemingly improvisatory spirit.

Advertisement for Ben Kingsley in Edmund Kean, featuring the text 'TWO MILLION UNBORN CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PUT TO DEATH UNDER THE 1967 ABORTION ACT THAT'S TWO MILLION TOO MANY!'

Advertisement for LIFE, featuring the text 'If you're shocked by this holocaust, join LIFE. Help campaign on behalf of unborn children and their mothers.' Includes contact information for LIFE.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for company name, price, and change.

Shares of the Rank Organisation, the allied industrial to leisure group, jumped 6p to 154p yesterday amid growing hopes of a bid from Grand Metropolitan.

Grand Met denies bid plan

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end April 22. Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

branches throughout the country. Miss Debbie Moore's Kinsale Dance Studio held figures after its first interim financials.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and change.

Grand Met, on the other hand, owns Warner Holidays, the Mecca bingo chain and several London hotels. Analysts are unwilling to put a price tag on Rank's entire leisure empire.

A touch of glamour comes to the stock market floor

Thursday when dealings begin in Miss World Group, the beauty contest organiser headed by Mrs Eric Morley and his wife Julia.

Elsewhere, share prices were again up in a raging bid market

boosted by hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates. Stock shortages had jobs on the run with the FT Index ending the first day of the new account 8.9 up at a new peak of 683.9.

Television South West achieved a useful rise in ITV advertising

share in the second half of last year - up from 3.17 per cent to 2.24 per cent. So there are hopes that pretax profits will be an unchanged £98,000 for the full year.

Another member of the USM, Fitch & Co, the design consultant, also pleased the market with pretax profits of £825,000.

Hopes of a bid for Milford Docks continued to recede with the price plunging 25p to a new low of 55p. Several investors have options to take large chunks of the equity, but appear reluctant to do so.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for country, price, and change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority, price, and change.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for company, price, and change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank, price, and change.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns for company, price, and change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company, price, and change.

THE TIMES 1000 1982/83 The World's Top Companies

Table of the World's Top Companies with columns for rank, company name, and price.

SHIPPING table with columns for company, price, and change.

MINES table with columns for company, price, and change.

OIL table with columns for company, price, and change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table with columns for company, price, and change.

INSURANCE table with columns for company, price, and change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for company, price, and change.

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD table with columns for currency, price, and change.

MONEY MARKET RATES table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

OTHER MARKETS table with columns for market, price, and change.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

EURO-DEPOSITS table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

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EURO-DEPOSITS table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

هكذا من الامهل

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including stock prices and indices.

Queens Moat buoyant

By Andrew Cornelius
The hotel business is booming for Queens Moat Houses...

Queens Moat Houses
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £2.7m (£1m)

group in Dublin suffered another tough year...

Ryan Hotels
Year to 31.10.82
Pretax loss IR£395,000 (£229,000)

group's first London hotel, and the major refurbishment...

However forward bookings are at a higher level...

Earlier this month control of 29.9 per cent of the company...

APPOINTMENTS

Heron names two directors

Mr Peter Lewis and Mr John English have been appointed to the board of Heron Corporation...

July 1 and Sir Colin Campbell has been appointed deputy chairman...

Mr Colin Harrison, currently groups marketing director...

Mr E. McManus has been appointed assistant general manager...

Mr J. P. A. Matton, general manager (Fleet) of P&O Cruises...

Mr J. P. A. Matton, general manager (Fleet) of P&O Cruises...

Mr J. L. Jackson has become managing director of Thorn EMI Electrical Components...

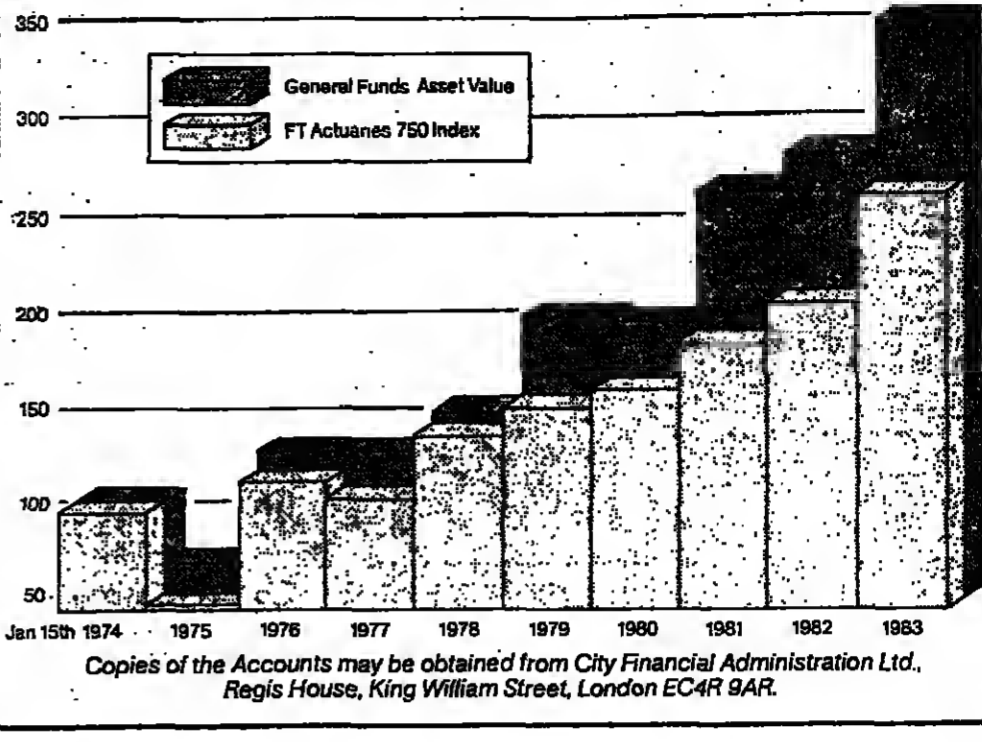
Mr J. P. A. Matton, general manager (Fleet) of P&O Cruises...

Mr J. P. A. Matton, general manager (Fleet) of P&O Cruises...

The General Funds Investment Trust PLC

10 YEAR GROWTH RECORD

Increase in net asset value for Ordinary Share - 249%
Increase in Ordinary Dividend - 195%



Copies of the Accounts may be obtained from City Financial Administration Ltd...

Base Lending Rates table listing various banks and their rates.

Dome company misses payment
Dome Petroleum has reorganized its holdings in Cyprus...

“..the opportunity and ability to secure improved profitability”

Extracts from the Foreword to the 1982 Annual Report and Accounts by Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman.

The positive and progressive improvement that we have achieved since 1980 was abruptly halted in mid-year by a further contraction...

As a result, profit before tax in the second half of the year was only £10.3 million compared with £30.5 million in the first half...

In reporting the results for the first half of 1982, we signalled the down-turn for the second half of the year...

Progress towards re-establishing sound national economies has been made in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and some European countries...

There has been real growth in consumer spending on a wide range of manufactured goods and it is pleasing to note...

that British-made products have benefited from this. We have also seen an increase in car purchasing sustained at a significantly higher level...

In the United States there are also welcome signs of improvement as also in certain other major countries in Europe...

There is therefore some evidence to support the view that the bottom of the world recession has been reached...

At this early stage, it is not possible to predict how significant a recovery there might be nor its impact on specific industrial sectors...

For GKN, it is too soon to be able to report positive beneficial effects. Nevertheless, we know that the considerable changes made within our on-going businesses...

Granville & Co Limited. (Formerly M.J.H. Nightingale & Co. Limited.)
Table of stock prices and market data.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Annual General Meeting...

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Specialising in Smaller Company Investments since 1962
Year ended 31st January 1983
Dividend: 6.30p per share +5.0%
Net Asset Value: 182.5p per share +36.4%

Our results in brief
Table comparing 1982 and 1981 results in terms of turnover, surplus, profit, earnings, dividends, equity interest, and assets.

Our results by principal classes of business
Table showing turnover and surplus on trading for Automotive components, Industrial supplies and services, Wholesale and industrial distribution, Special steels and forgings, and General steels.



GUEST KEEN AND NETTLEFOLDS PLC

If you would like a copy of the 1982 Annual Report and Accounts please write to: Guest Keen and Nettlefolds plc, GPR Dept., 7 Cleveland Row, London SW1A 1DB. Tel: 01-930 2424. Telex: 24911.

Torin Douglas on the people whose 'ovenability' boosted profits and won awards doing so

Taking a bird's eye view of marketing success with frozen foods

There is a love-hate relationship today between the big grocery manufacturers and the supermarket chains, not least because retailers' own-label products now account for 25 per cent of grocery sales. Yet supermarket buyers are now crying out more than ever for successful new branded products from the manufacturers - even if, as cynics sometimes suggest, it is only so that they can pinch the concept and produce it more cheaply under their own name.

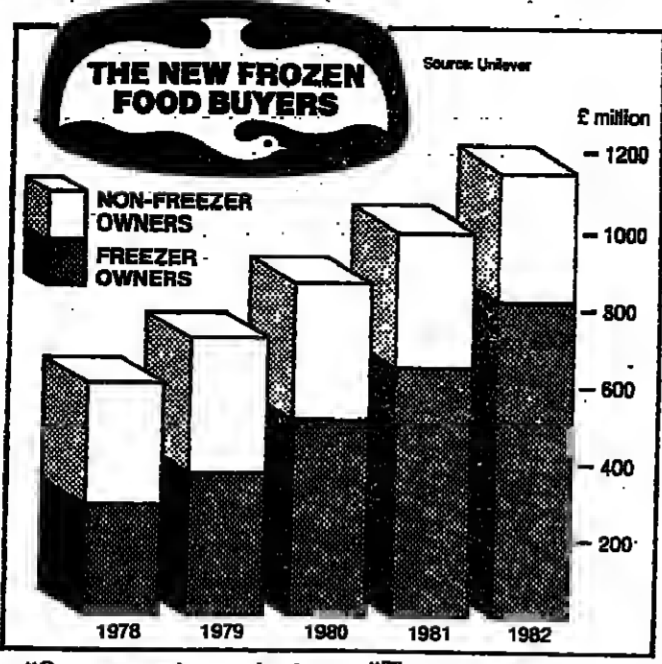
For this reason, the buyers' own estimates of the most successful product launches are eagerly scanned by retailers and manufacturers alike. Each year, the trade paper *SuperMarketing* polls buyers through the Martin-Hambro research firm and asks them to rate on a scale of one to five the success of every new product. It then compiles a list of the Top 20.

The 1982 chart, just out, shows that four of the top 12 products were launched by the frozen food firm Birds Eye Wall's, including both the overall winner - Birds Eye Oven Crispy Cod Steaks - and the runner-up, Birds Eye Steakhouse Grills. Wall's Vienna took fifth place and Birds Eye Best of British Chicken Supreme was 12th.

Birds Eye Wall's - the two Unilever frozen food subsidiaries merged their operations a few years ago - is naturally cock-a-booop about its unprecedented dominance of the proceedings, as is the advertising agency Lintas - formerly a Unilever subsidiary, now part of the American Interpublic group - which handles three of the top 20, including Oven Crispy Cod Steaks and Vienna.

Lintas was commended in the latest *Industry Advertising Effectiveness Awards* for its campaign for Oven Crispy Cod, which features Gemma Craven singing an adapted version of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Awards are one thing, of course, but real success is measured in terms of sales and profit and here it is clear that the three main new brands are doing well.



Mr Jacobs does not accept these figures because he says it depends what you include in your definition of frozen foods. In addition, he says, Birds Eye looks at things from a value point of view, rather than volume, because it works at the added value, premium price end of the business. Last year,

Market grows to £1,152m but pressure is on margins

Birds Eye Wall's frozen foods turnover, excluding ice cream, was £405m.

"For example, we are not very big in the freezer centres", he says. "We are not in the business of large volume, second quality products. We can't see sufficient profit in it and, in any case, our philosophy is based on high quality, added value and innovation."

Nevertheless, as the frozen food market expands it is impossible for a single company to maintain its dominance across all sectors. "It is such a huge market and there are so many different segments that we cannot be in them all. You might as well ask what share a particular firm has of the total canned food market", Mr Jacobs says.

One example of a fast-growing sector in which Birds Eye appears to have missed out is frozen oven chips, where McCain's is now the clear leader. Yet the company quickly learned from the success of the oven chip market - where it turned out that 60 per cent of purchasers either did not buy ordinary frozen chips at all or infrequently. It decided there was a market for a fish product that could be used in the same way.

"Ovenability" is the marketing jargon for the capacity to produce foods that taste fried simply by popping them in the oven, Birds Eye decided that an "ovenable" fish in batter, which

did away with "the fuss, bother and unpleasantness of deep-frying", had a big future. After 18 months' development, mainly on the formula for the batter, which remains a closely-guarded secret, Birds Eye Oven Crispy Cod Steaks were launched in the Midlands in October 1981.

In addition to monitoring the sales of the new product, Birds Eye was anxious to see what effect it would have on sales of its existing cod steaks in batter - called simply Crispy Cod Steaks, which had to be fried in the normal way. If the new product were simply to divert sales from the old one, it would not be doing what Birds Eye intended, which was to expand the market by attracting people who could not be bothered with frying.

As it turned out, things went to plan and Birds Eye increased its share of the fish in batter market by nine points to 65 per cent and expanded the market by 30 per cent. As a result of this success, the product was launched nationally a year ago and since then sales have been exceeding the targets. The total market for fish in batter increased last year to £38m, of which Oven Crispy Cod accounted for £8m.

Oven Crispy Cod was one of 12 products launched by Birds Eye last year, in addition to which two product ranges were relaunched with quality improvements. Within the next few months, the company will be launching ten more products, either nationally or regionally. Not all may succeed, of course, but Birds Eye maintains its record is better than most.

"I really would claim that the proportions of Birds Eye products that come out of test market into national distribution is considerably higher than the average grocery figures so often banded about", Mr Jacobs says. "Throughout all our years in the frozen food market, we believe we have always managed to get very close to the changing needs of

the consumer and to meet those needs by a dedicated insistence on three important ingredients - better-than-average quality, added value in product presentation, and new ideas."

Market research plays a key role, Mr Jacobs again: "It provides us not only with a continuous monitor of the many segments of the market but a picture of how consumer tastes and requirements are moving. The needs of today's working women, the fragmentation of family eating, the development trends of freezer ownership and freezer size are just some of the pointers which market research provides for successful product development."

At the same time as launching products, Birds Eye is constantly revamping existing ones. "Our market strategy calls for a very precise balance between old product developments and innovation, in each of our market groups - fish, meat, vegetables, cakes and desserts. Alongside smaller, sweeter Birds Eye Foods came Stir Fry Vegetables. Alongside improved Fish Fingers, and Beefburgers we introduced Oven Crispy Cod and Steakhouse Grills."

Whether this constant process of improvements and innovations is sufficient to keep

12 products launched last year with 10 on the way

the own-label products and smaller brands at bay is something only time will tell, though with the market growing at its current pace and with price still a key factor the chances are that in volume terms the Birds Eye share will continue to fall. In value terms, however, the brand leader seems likely to have things more its own way.

Industrial notebook

Scoring own goals

Alfred Herbert is dead. Long live Alfred Herbert. That was the message last week as the remains of what was once Britain's machine tool giant went into receivership, taking with it the lives of thousands of workers. Tooling Investments with it. The receiver is confident that someone else will buy Herbert as a going concern, just as Tooling bought it from another receiver after the National Enterprise Board got tired of £57m losses between 1976 and 1980.

But it is not just a swoop of ownership. Two other machine-tool groups have gone bust this year and Herbert will shrink, yet again, three more slices in the industry's death by a thousand cuts.

Does it matter? Certainly. Whitehall cares far more about this traditionally strategic industry, sometimes called "the key to productivity", than do many big industrialists, who see it as a tenuous trade best left to small firms. The machine tool industry is not quite a microcosm of our troubles, but its decline is instructive as well as damaging. We have many industrial lessons still to learn.

It is fashionable to suppose that machine-tool manufacturers are being killed off by foreign competition. Korea and Taiwan make the cheap basic tools at one end. Japan is mounting a determined onslaught at the other, to corner the market for high-value computer-controlled tools and machining centres that now account for more than a third of the British market by value, though fewer than one in 15 of machines sold. Well, imports may give the *comp de grace*, but they are not to blame.

Machine tools were traditionally specialized and widely traded internationally. Although Britain, perhaps inevitably, lost its dominating postwar position, we have almost always maintained a trade surplus, with the notable exception of 1979. On the latest full figures, for 1981, Britain managed 4.7 per cent of world exports from 3.5 per cent of world output. Until the high pound phenomenon, British exports held up pretty well. But West Germany did much better, notching almost a quarter of world exports from 15 per cent of production. Meanwhile, Japan's share of world exports was two points lower than its share of production, though that was an enormous 18 per cent.

As with motor cycles, it was the decline of our industry that let in imports, rather than the imports killing it. The troubles were at home. It was, to say the least, unfortunate that much of the heart of Britain's machine-tool trade was in the hands of two terminally complacent companies. Such dinosaurs might not last so long today.

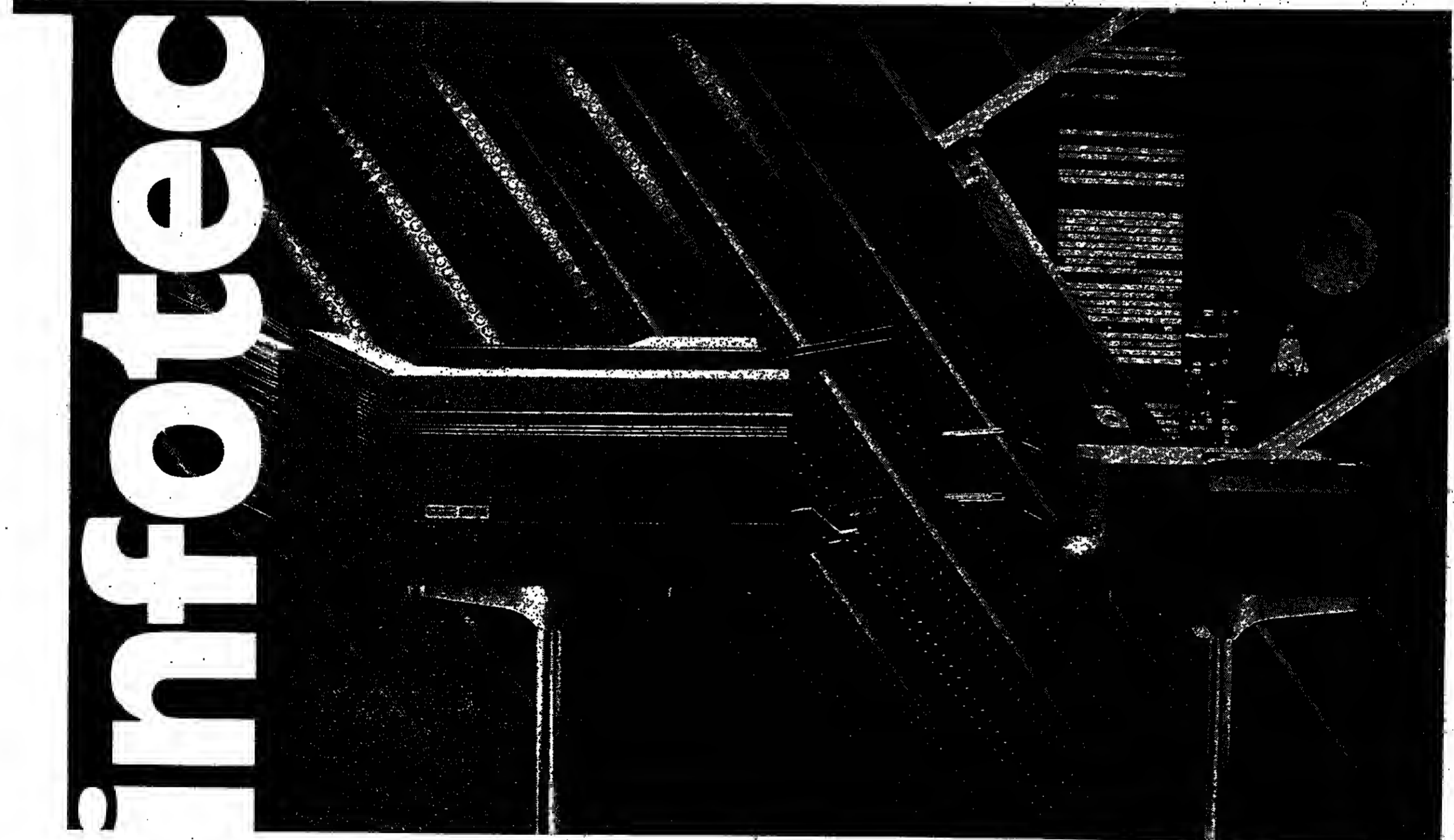
The main, long-running crisis was that British industry simply failed to invest in new machines. Manufacturers failed to create demand with new products. Engineering firms were not interested in the initiative of productivity and cost-cutting. But mainly, British industry just has not grown fast enough to need the investment goods. Home orders fell over a generation.

Japan has built exports on a huge, growing and relatively stable home market. Britain has had to lean ever more on difficult foreign markets because it could not rely on the wild swings and general decline of its own.

One lesson is that British firms cannot simply hope that home demand will turn up, as so many machine tool makers did. Another is that those disdainful big firms were short-sighted. Technology is transforming machine tools into a big company industry, making high value, non-specialized tools that need plenty of finance and volume. Our firms are getting smaller. Japan's Okuma makes as many computer-controlled machines in a month as Herbert does in a year.

We have reacted with typical lachrymose, spearheading a European deal to force Japan to limit its firms' exports of high value machines and to raise their prices, a wonderful formula to make our engineering industry less competitive in the future. That policy can make any sense only if we can persuade a large Japanese company to take over the remains of Alfred Herbert.

Graham Searjeant



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Computers in Congress

Scorpio stalks Capitol Hill

During the Carter administration, "the White House became an unprincipled information thief". Such a remark may seem out of character in the serious world of government but it was made by a senior congressional staff member when it was found that Vice President Mondale, through his dual appointment as president of the United States Senate, had allowed White House staff free access to the congressional computers.



At the time, the White House was concluding tough negotiations with Congress on several proposals for legislation. By tapping the computers, Carter's men were able to gain a strategic advantage; they were able to find out what decisions were about to be made in the House of Representatives and the Senate and could also obtain voting records of individual Congressmen which could help in the President's lobbying.

The 435 members of the House of Representatives, and the 100 senators have three computer systems available to them. Each chamber has its own, and the third is in the Library of Congress. All three were developed separately, and while their growth reflected different needs, priorities and funding arrangements, there are considerable areas of overlap.

Such duplication can be an advantage since when one system is not functioning, which happens quite often, access can be made to one of the others.

Last summer I spent five weeks as a visiting scholar in Washington studying the Scorpio system in the library.

Scorpio (Subject/Content Oriented Retrieval Program for Information On-line) has much in common with Polis operated by the House of Commons Library at Westminster, although it has been established for longer.

By 1970 the Library of Congress was already using automatic data processing, but Scorpio was set up in 1973 and, of the three computer systems on Capitol Hill, it is the most comprehensive.

There are more than 4,000 terminals on the Hill - in sharp contrast to the present 17 at the Palace of Westminster.

The majority of these are in offices of the House of Representatives and are of the "teletype" type, which means they are connected to the telephone system by means of an acoustic coupler or electronically wired through a modem.

Terminals in Senate offices are all visual display units. Members of the public may use one of Scorpio's 30 VDUs and thermal printers in the reading room of the library.

Once a user has connected up with the Scorpio data base he can plug into a choice of six main files:

- Legislative information - everything you might wish to know about all public bills introduced during a particular session.
- The congressional record - a close equivalent to Hansard.

● Major issues - objective run-downs of key policy issues.

● Citations/bibliographies - references to articles in current periodicals, journals, etc.

● Library of Congress computerized catalogues - details of all books acquired or lodged for copyright, including foreign publications, musical scores, and statistical abstracts.

● National referral center resources: descriptions of more than 15,000 information sources (organizations which are qualified and willing to respond to questions on almost any topic).

Unlike Members of Parliament whose access to Polis is through a staff member in the House of Commons Library, Congressmen and their assistants can call up Scorpio's files through their own terminals.

Unlike Polis, which has a growing number of "outside" subscribers, vetted by a committee of the House of Commons Library, Congress is at present hesitant to set up commercial access arrangements other than the present public use of non-sensitive files.

In addition to their own data bases, the three systems on Capitol Hill can get information from a number of other sources. These include, the New York Times information bank, consisting of references and abstracts from more than 60 periodicals; Juris, which stores legal information data; and Medline, which provides access to abstracts compiled by the National Library of Medicine.

The histories of adoption of computer services in Congress and at the Palace of Westminster have some similarities. Both have been more or less plagued by moments of resistance to new technology and change.

In Washington, as we have seen, legislators have a far greater range of resources at their disposal compared with Westminster. But some critics have suggested, particularly regarding the House of Representatives system, that acquisition of information has tended towards a "garbage-can" approach.

Westminster, on the other hand, may have had an advantage of a slower process of adoption, with a close watch on budget allocations, and the opportunity to learn from the successes and mistakes of others.

Indeed, some of my hosts at the Library of Congress were envious of Polis since it appeared to them unencumbered by some of the problems to which their system is prone.

Computers have clearly arrived in both the US Congress and the British Parliament; most would concede that they bring enormous benefits to the processes of law-making.

The question confronting parliamentarians is no longer whether to adopt computers, but rather how to plan effectively for their optimum use - bearing in mind that they will inevitably cause changes in the legislative process, already in the US Congress there are signs that improved access to information leads to more conflict and costly delay in decision-making.

Benedict Knox

● The author, who is aged 17, is in his final year at The City of London School.

People in computers/Chris Curry, Acorn Computers

Waiting for the oak tree to grow

"There was a point where we nearly didn't go into the personal computer business", admits Chris Curry, of Acorn Computers. "Our first computer, the Atom, was produced almost by a subversive call within the company. There were no indications that people wanted this type of thing."

But since 1979, when the Atom appeared, about 35,000 have been sold. Acorn's next model was selected for the BBC computer series, and was one of the choices for the Government's Micros in Schools scheme. Sales are now approaching 100,000.

"I always felt there was a good opportunity", says Curry. "I wasn't surprised, but very pleased."

This month, Acorn is launching its low-cost home computer, the Electron, and is about to enter the United States market. The company is spending \$270,000 to show the BBC micro programmes on America's public broadcasting network, and hopes to sell 50,000 computers by the end of the year.

It's a dramatic change for Chris Curry, an electronics engineer by training. Now 37, he spent 13 years working for Clive Sinclair, Britain's pioneer of pocket calculators and home computers.

In the mid-1970s Curry was running Science of Cambridge, in which Sinclair had the majority stake, when he met Hermann Hauser, a young



Austrian who had just gained a physics PhD at Cambridge.

Hauser was interested in microprocessor applications, and the two men formed a consultancy called Cambridge Processing Unit (CPU). "There was a point when it looked as though we were going into the industrial control business," says Curry, "and there was a dichotomy in the company about the way we should go."

Curry and a couple of other engineers worked in secrecy on the microcomputer, which was to become the Atom. "As soon as it appeared in its breadboard form," Curry says, "everybody thought: what a nice little thing it was."

Today, Curry and Hauser are joint managing directors of Acorn Computers, which was formed in 1978 to market the Atom. They share a large office, and their rapport seems absolute.

Curry sees education as a market where Acorn can dominate, but his ambitions do not end there.

"We are not placing any limits on the size we can grow to," he says. "We see the Electron as a very powerful threat to the existing dominance by Sinclair and the Commodore VIC 20. We hope to get half the home computer market."

In the small business area "we want to be in there getting all the people who are buying Apples". He plans to sell to larger business users, too.

It's a long way from working on the bench with Clive Sinclair. What are his relations now with his erstwhile employer and present rival? "We quite often meet socially," Curry says. "These days we don't talk much about business."

Roger Woolnough

The week/Clive Cookson

The race to sell off Altergo

The precariousness of the fragmented British software industry has been highlighted by last week's news that Altergo, one of the best known companies in the field, has gone into receivership.

Altergo was Britain's leading independent producer of software for IBM computers. The 14-year-old group employed about 300 people and had a turnover last year of £8.7m, including a lot of export work.

The receivers, London accountants Thornton Baker, are working very fast to sell off the five Altergo operating companies before their main asset - the staff - disappears.

The only one to make that interest public was Oxford-based Telecomputing, whose managing director Bernard Pantou said: "I think it (Altergo) will turn to dust very quickly unless something happens fast." Telecomputing, which specializes in ICL software, sees the purchase of Altergo as an attractive diversification into the larger IBM market.

Altergo's financial crisis follows the resignation of several senior managers and the return to the United States of American financier Leonard Levy, who became managing director just three months ago.

The computer industry's (few) sentimentalists are mourning the death of one of its oldest and most respected names: Univac. This month the Sperry Corporation's Sperry Univac computer business became known simply as Sperry.

The company officially consigned Univac to history with a nostalgic ceremony at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, a centre of American industrial archeology in Delaware. Sperry handed over 10 tons of records, files and photographs from its own archives, documenting the birth of Univac and the computer industry in the 1940s.

announced just before its renaming, was to win an initial \$32m contract to supply the US Navy with its next generation of standard medium-sized computers. The job is likely to be worth more than \$50m over the next five years, and it follows Sperry's success two months ago in winning a \$476m order from the US Air Force, that said to be the largest commercial computer order on record.

ICL has passed through the first spasms of City doubt about its future since the dark days of 1981. Rumours swirled around the brokers, about delays and difficulties with the company's various collaborative ventures.

Fortunately the City seems now to have realized that there was no truth in the most worrying story, that ICL's main collaboration with Fujitsu of Japan on a new generation of mainframe computers had fallen a year behind schedule. "ICL's collaborative arrangements with Fujitsu are progressing as planned and all activities are on target," insisted Sir Christopher Laidlaw, chairman of ICL, when he opened the company's new £21m mainframe development facility at West Gorton, Manchester.

The first integrated circuit chips designed by ICL and manufactured by Fujitsu for incorporation in the ICL DM1 and Estriel computers are already working in prototype systems in ICL's development centre at West Gorton, Sir Christopher added.

But the company does acknowledge delay in another venture. Production of Mitel's new electronic telephone exchange, the SX2000, is at least nine months late; this is a significant setback for ICL's office automation strategy, in which the Mitel exchange will play an important role.

The author is Technology Correspondent.

Computer Appointments appear on page 22.



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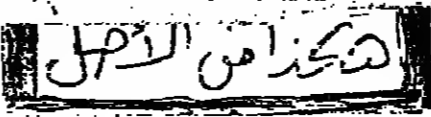
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RACING

Harwood colt to stride along the Epsom road

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

After the excitement and the romance of Aintree on Grand National Day the spotlight shines on Newmarket where the Craven Stakes is the key race on the first day of the three-day Craven meeting.

As a classic trial it has been misleading more often than not, although it has been quite helpful in recent years. For many of the years ago it was won by Tyravros, who was to win the Irish Derby later in the season. The following year To-Agor-Mou ran well enough in it to claim the title of the Derby, which he did.

This time interest centres around Muscatie and Tolomeo, two possible candidates for the 2,000 Guineas. For many of the years ago it was won by Tyravros, who was to win the Irish Derby later in the season. The following year To-Agor-Mou ran well enough in it to claim the title of the Derby, which he did.

Bookmakers should dig deeper to help save the people's race

Even if not actually occupying a carriage popularized by Mr Rolls, it was difficult, driving through the rundown streets of Liverpool - which began a few days after that now fading relic of more opulent days, the Adelphi Hotel - not to feel just a twinge of the conscience which must have touched the Romanoffs in Russia some 70 years ago or so.

As the 60,000 crowd converged on Aintree and traffic became almost stationary, I overheard a white-haired old lady at a litter-strewn bus stop complain to her companion: "Just think of all the petrol they'll have to eat when they get there".

To this aged soul in her threadbare overcoat, from one of those mean back-to-back streets close to Everton's football ground where the most readily-available luxury will always be the gossip around adjacent, open front doors, it no doubt seemed an offensive, self-indulgent extravagance: all that money channelled towards nothing more than a few horses jumping round a field. Yet she would be wrong.

The whole point about the Grand National is that it is the people's race, a marvellously classless celebration of fun as basic as beer and skittles which has been with us since the year after Victoria's coronation. It is as much a part of our heritage as Tower Bridge, Lord's Cricket Ground or the cliffs of Dover, and to lose it would be to surrender a living symbol of English life more emotive than the legend of Robin Hood.

It is, I feel, an error of judgement that the Heritage Foundation, which protects nationally important works of art, the appreciation of which is numbered in thousands, should have refused to aid an institution which is valued by millions, and not just because the annual flutter might pay for a holiday or just an extra pint or two at the local.

Hamilton Park

Draw advantage: Middle to high numbers best. 2.15 AUCHINRATH HANDICAP (Apprentices: £852: 1m 30) (9 runners)

Sedgefield

2.15 ROAD SHOW HURDLE (Div 1) (Novices: £275: 2m) (18 runners)

Fontwell results

2.0 (22) WALBERTON CHASE (Novices: £1,251: 2m 20) (10 runners)

Davis and La Rocca await big chance

San Remo, (APF) The lightweight Howard Davis, of the United States, and the Italian-based West African welterweight Nino La Rocca earned themselves world title bouts here on Sunday night with impressive victories.

Davis, aged 28, the Montreal Olympian champion, was always in charge against George Feeney, of Britain, who was only a shadow of the boxer who took the world championship from Jim Watt, of Scotland, in June 1980, constantly outmanoeuvring the British boxer.

The fact is that Davis, who left no doubt about the result and Feeney suffered his ninth defeat in 25 contests. Davis is now expected to meet the winner of the forthcoming All-American World Boxing Association (WBA) championship bout between Ray Mancini and Ken Bonogian.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Five-star show by Juventus

There was no change at the top of the main European leagues as West Germany's Borussia Dortmund, Hamburg and Real Madrid edged closer to victory in their respective championships.

In France Nantes stayed seven points clear of Bordeaux after beating Sochaux 2-0. In West Germany Hamburg maintained their one-point lead over Werder Bremen after coming away from lowly Eintracht Braunschweig with a 4-2 win.

Hamilton selections

By Our Racing Staff 2.15 Target, 2.45 Marjoram, 3.15 Rumm, 3.45 In Rhythm, 4.15 Richards Bay, 4.45 Alberrast.

4.45 HOLTOWN STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £299: 1m 10) (9 runners)

1-02 MANDY ANN Wiggins 5-11-11 C Lamb 2 1-03 MANDY ANN Wiggins 5-11-11 C Lamb 2

4.45 ROAD SHOW HURDLE (Div 1) (Novices: £269: 2m) (18 runners)

1-01 Kelsay Lady (B) 5-11-10 2-01 Valley City (B) 5-11-10

4.15 OPEN CAST CHASE (Novices: £236: 3m 60) (12 runners)

1-01 Hobbam Head 7-11-10 1-02 Hobbam Head 7-11-10

Two meetings lost

Today's meetings at Folkestone and Nottingham have been cancelled because of unacceptably high water levels.

Today's point-to-point

At Haydock, 10.30 am, 12.15, 2.30, 4.15, 5.45, 7.15, 8.45, 10.15, 11.45

Legal Appointments BIOGEN Intellectual Property Lawyer Reporting to the Legal Director, he/she will prepare contracts relating to acquisition, disposal and licensing of technology...

CONVEYANCING Assistant to Partner Lincoln's Inn Our clients are a long-established and well-known firm to Lincoln's Inn. From the base of a family practice they are developing an increasing amount of commercial work...

BROOMHEADS & NEALS ASSISTANT SOLICITOR COMMERCIAL LITIGATION We are a large, commercially oriented firm, with a geographically wide spread practice. We require a newly qualified solicitor to work in our rapidly expanding commercial litigation department...

DURRANT PIESSE COMMERCIAL LITIGATION We require: 1. Assistant Solicitor with good academic record and two to three years' litigation experience...

CHARLES RUSSELL & CO. require a SOLICITOR preferably of 3-4 years appropriate experience, for their Family Law Department.

LITIGATION SOLICITOR Small progressive firm in WC1 require litigation solicitor with two years' post-qualification experience. First class prospects for right applicant.

COMPANY COMMERCIAL Commercial partners at young, rapidly expanding Assistant to company commercial partners. Some experience of commercial work would be an advantage.

Wartime bomb defused by Army

Central London traffic was almost brought to a standstill yesterday morning by the discovery of a Second World War German bomb...

The 112lb leucy of the Blitz was dragged from the Thames riverbank on Sunday night by a dredger...

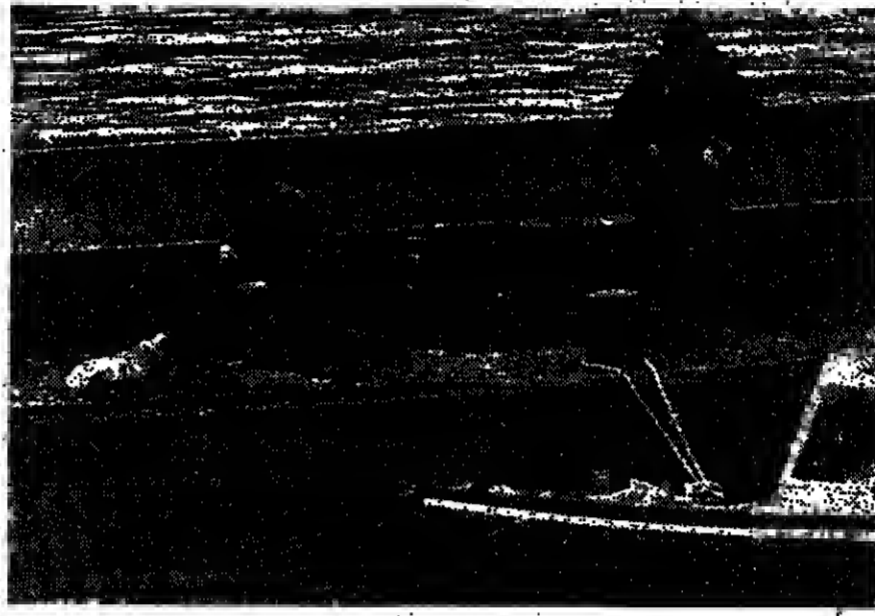
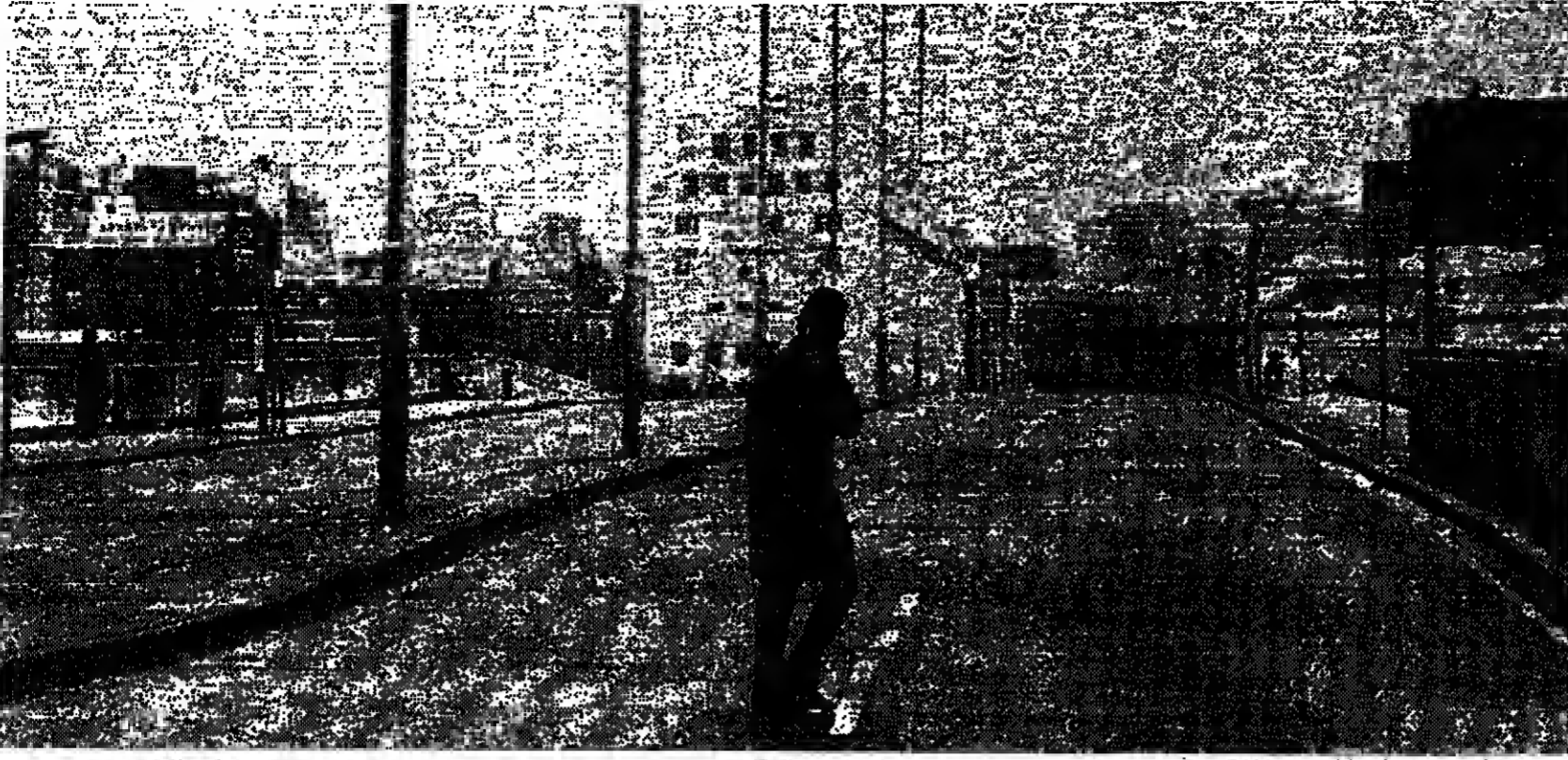
The danger of an explosion as an army bomb disposal team drilled through the outer casing led police to cordon off an area within a half-mile between 7.30am and 11am...

About 70,000 passengers who use Charing Cross, Blackfriars and Waterloo East stations were diverted or had to get off at earlier stops...

Major John Quin, training officer of 33 Engineer Regiment, based at Chatham, Kent, was called in at midnight on Sunday to work on the bomb...

Major John Quin, aged 42, who recently completed a five-month tour of duty in the Falklands clearing Argentine bombs and mines...

The defused bomb was put on board a police launch which took it down river. It was later detonated at the army weapons testing range at Shoeburyness, Essex.



Major John Quin and Lance-Corporal Michael Rowley who are seen (right) successfully defusing the bomb on the barge.

The unexploded bomb which brought much of central London to a halt yesterday is a reminder of the hidden mass of armaments that still remains in Britain...

The Royal Engineers believe it will take a further 40 years to clear all the known bomb danger areas in the country...

But German bombs are likely to turn up in the most public of places for even longer.

Between September 7 and December 13, 1940, at the height of the blitz, German bombers dropped 13,651 tons of high explosive and 12,586 incendiary canisters on London.

While most of the unexploded devices in the capital have been detected, the Thames is thought to contain a deadly legacy of aerial weapons...

The bomb yesterday was a common 50-kilogram type which was dropped in clusters on raids over the capital...

It contained a clockwork fuse still capable of detonating the explosive nearly 40 years after the weapon was manufactured.

Its defusing involved close liaison between the disposal team from 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and its headquarters in Chatham, Kent...

Former army training ranges in remote country and coastal areas which had previously been declared safe after being swept by engineers have now, under new techniques, disclosed some remaining weapons.

A further problem facing disposal teams is that of soil erosion. Many bombs which failed to explode are now being revealed by the effects of wind and rain.

One of the type found yesterday would normally penetrate the soil between 12 and 15ft before detonating, and some of the larger bombs from the Second World War are probably still lying unexploded 60 or 70ft underground.

correctly identified its fuse as a hazardous clockwork design. Clapham dealt with 13 unexploded Second World War bombs in Britain last year and confidently expects to be kept busy by others in years to come.

Though the bomb yesterday may have made its presence known in the most public of ways, it is only 14 months since a similar bomb closed the Thames to river traffic between Southwark Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge before being defused.

Former army training ranges in remote country and coastal areas which had previously been declared safe after being swept by engineers have now, under new techniques, disclosed some remaining weapons.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opens the Bomber Command Museum at Heaton, 3.

New exhibitions

Lithograph by Alberto Giacometti, Museum and Art Gallery, 1 Leitch Street, Walsall; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45; from today until April 30.

Exhibitions in progress

Goya's Tauromachia, the complete set of 33 etchings, National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; until April 27.

New books - hardback

A selection of interesting books published this week: Critical Path, by R. S. Alexander (Faber, £12.50).

Weather

A ridge of high pressure will move from W across all areas. London, central S, central N...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,101

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and a small 'Solution of Puzzle No. 16,100' inset.

- ACROSS 1 He represents this member of a noble group (6).

- 3 What's more, it's a sincere conversion (8).

Sheep worrying: The Central Office of Information reminds dog-owners to keep their pets under control in the countryside...

Parliament today: Commons (2.30): Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Bill, remaining stages.

Roads: London and South-east A501: City Road Partially closed N of Old Street roundabout...

The pound: Bank Buys 1.81, Bank Sells 1.73. Australia \$ 27.10, Austria Sch 76.75...

The papers: The Daily Mirror, commenting on the case of a Tory parliamentary candidate rejected...

Lighting-up time: London 8.21 pm to 8.41 pm, Belfast 8.21 pm to 8.41 pm, Edinburgh 8.21 pm to 8.41 pm.

Weather map showing pressure systems and high tide tables for various ports.

Executive Appointments are featured every WEDNESDAY for details please ring 01-278 9161/5.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Perverse bodies invade the House of Brutes

Back from the Easter recess, members eased themselves in gently. Question time was concerned first with Wales and later with 'the arts'.

The first, Wales provides them with a large portion of their seats. The second, 'the arts', provides them with a large portion of their conviction that they are more sensitive than the Conservatives.

In truth, quite a few gnarled trade union Labour backbenchers hate 'the arts' just as much as the average Tory. These brutes do not see why their constituents, particularly in the North, should subsidise, say, the Royal Opera House.

The more brutish Conservatives are almost as easily cowed into submission on the matter, but Mr Harvey Proctor, the Conservative member for Basildon, demanded yesterday that Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for the Arts, look into the administration of the Arts Council, particularly in regard to the public concern about certain peculiar and perverse grants of money to different bodies.

Until this moment, the different bodies, about which Mr Proctor was most noted for concerning himself, were immigrants. Being an extremely out-right-winger, Mr Proctor has spent much time demonstrating that too many different bodies are being allowed into the country.

Mr Proctor had in mind by these 'peculiar and perverse grants of money' or 'different bodies' or 'did he mean that it was the bodies which were 'peculiar and perverse? For he would surely be among the first to protest that a lot of people in the arts have peculiar and perverse bodies: it turned out that Mr Proctor had in mind certain 'fringe theatre groups'.

Mr Proctor asked for 'a departmental review inquiry into the workings of the Arts Council'. He was enunciating the unexceptionable sentiment that the Arts Council wasted quite a lot of public money on terrible art.

But, because it was Mr Proctor, who was saying it, hardly any other members could openly agree with him even though he undoubtedly had support in many countries of the kind that lay beyond his native Philistia or Basildon.

'I have not heard the sort of complaints to which my honourable friend (Mr Proctor) has referred,' replied Mr Channon, 'nevertheless, I have heard my complaints about the subsidised theatre? Mr Channon's social round must be extremely raffish, or perhaps confined to circles which seldom go to the theatre.'

Mr Channon explained that it had long been the tradition of governments - of both political persuasions to adopt towards the Arts Council 'the arm's length principle'. This principle turned out to be, not a subsidised method of action painting of the kind fashionable in the 1970s, but the principle that governments did not intervene in the way the Arts Council spent money. This confirmed preposterously, Mr Channon's suspicion.

Mr Channon, himself a minor art in his own right, was among those who came to the aid of the minister and of civilization. The Liberal member of the Isle of Ely suggested that there should be investment 'in some marketing men for the Arts Council' - perhaps offering by implication his own services, so that the arts could become to the 1980s what dog food was to the 1970s.

The 'honourable member has made a valuable point,' the always-courteous Mr Channon replied. All this was too much for Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, the Tory member for Birmingham, Selly Oak. 'The reason why the arts need more and more subsidies is that they keep on putting on more plays or music or art exhibitions that no one wants.'

But then Mr Philip Whitehead, the Labour spokesman on the arts, intervened. He had a beard. That confirmed the worst suspicions of Mr Proctor and Mr Beaumont-Dark.